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The Playground

OCTOBER, 1923

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Wilkes-Barre Gets the Playground Spirit 379

Planning Recreation for a New Town 381

Boys Rejoice at Renaissance of the Harmonica . . . 383

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The Playground

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Membership

Any person contributing five dollars or more shall be a member of the Association for the ensuing year

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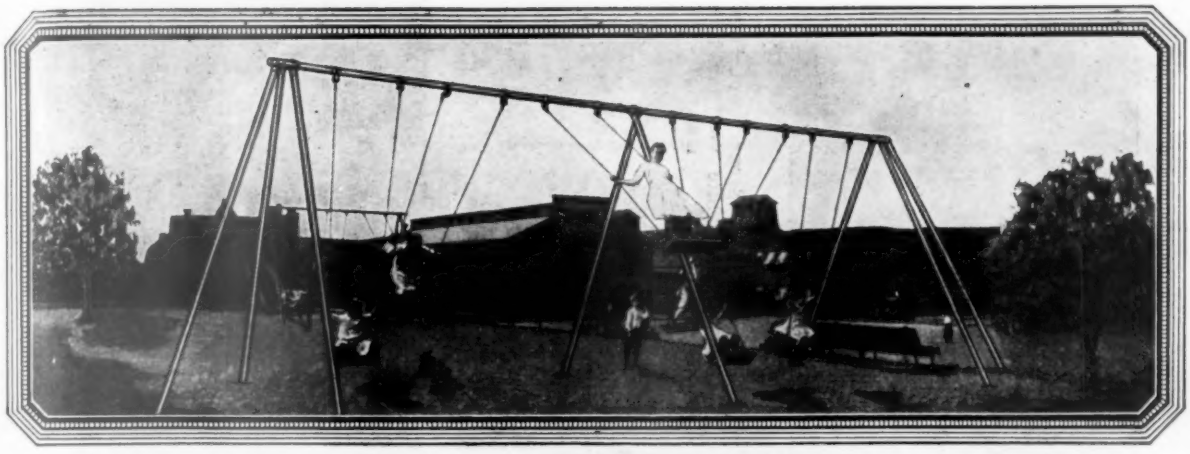

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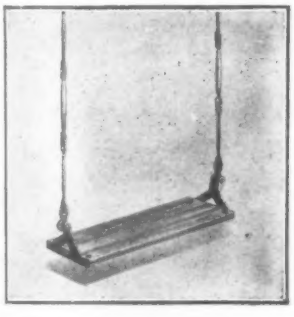

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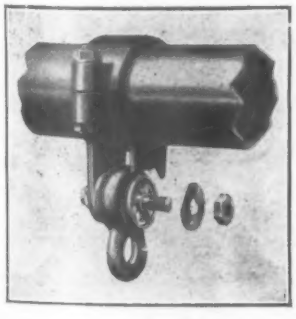

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presents

The Magic Path

a Fairy Pageant

Jack shows his Mother the Beanstalk in "Jack and the Beanstalk"

The Giant and his Wife in "Jack and the Beanstalk"

The Playground

Vol. XVII No. 7 OCTOBER, 1923

The World at Play

Katrina Trask Alliance in Beautiful Pageant.—Celebrating the birth anniversary of Katrina Trask (Mrs. George Foster Peabody), the Katrina Trask Alliance presented in Congress Park, Saratoga, New York, the Forest Princess, by Constance D'Arcy Mackay. Fully a thousand people encircled the hillside near the Katrina Trask Gateway, just below Katrina Trask House and Recreation Hall. The Pageant was beautifully done and seemed exceptionally well chosen to mirror the characteristics which predominated in the life of "The Ladye of Yaddo."

Katrina Trask House and Recreation Hall was opened last fall under the auspices of Katrina Trask Alliance with an attendance of about 350, including employees of the Clark Textile, the Van Raalte Company, the Harvey Company, the New York Telephone Company and representatives of nearly every business house in the city, besides many mothers and home women. At that time both Mrs. W. H. Moody, President of the Board, and George Foster Peabody, donor of the building, expressed the hope that the activities of the building might help to perpetuate the neighborly spirit of Katrina Trask. Mrs. Moody said in part.

"It is especially gratifying that this first building which has belonged entirely to the women of Saratoga Springs should be a memorial to a beloved woman, who for many years made our city, its people and their welfare the object of her particular solicitude. Although illness confined her for many years to her room, pain and suffering never caused her to forget her neighbors and to Katrina Trask, her neighbors were in every household in this city and their joys and their griefs were close to her heart.

"Ruskin says: 'The path of a good woman is indeed strewn with flowers; but they rise behind her steps, not before them. Her feet have touched the meadows, and left the daisies rosy.' Such is the simple knowledge Saratogians had of Katrina Trask—not as the writer whose words were read world-wide, nor as the student, but as the good woman whose path was strewn with flowers of kindness to her neighbors—men and women of Saratoga Springs."

Americanus.—Among the mammoth pageants of the summer was Americanus presented in the stadium of the University of Washington at Seattle. Upon the theme, "Greater freedom lies in the way of peace," Edmond S. Meany and Montgomery Lynch, authors, have staged significant episodes of American life. Ten thousand participants unrolled the pageant before an audience of 30,000.

Summer Dramatics in Oakland, Cal.—The Oakland Recreation Department has a Bureau of Educational Dramatics, Folk Dancing and Storytelling which played an important part in the summer program. Between June 9 and August 18 eleven matinees were given at the playground theater and twenty-seven plays were presented in which 227 children from twenty-one playgrounds took part. In addition, folk and dramatic dances taught on the playgrounds were presented at the matinees. As a climax to the season of folk dancing came the folk dance festival in which 230 children took part in sixteen national dances. Two storytellers visited sixteen playgrounds weekly.

Among the plays presented at the playground theater were *May's Flower Garden, Sir David Wears a Crown, Heroes of the Revolution, Three Wishes, Golden Goose, Red Riding Hood,*

Jack shows his Mother the Beanstalk

Cinderella, Blue Beard, Jack and the Bean Stalk, The Elves and the Shoemaker, The Princess Who Hid Her Shoes, and others.

New Citizens Dramatize American History.—An interesting ceremony took place on July Fourth in Oakland, California, when the students in the Naturalization and Americanization classes of the evening high school presented a dramatization of the Continental Congress and the Declaration of Independence. The dramatization was given under the auspices of the Independence Day Program Committee, the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Spanish-American War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. Students of more than twenty different nationalities took part, the average American education of the participants being less than three years. The costumes worn were all made in the evening school classes in sewing and millinery.

The Boys' Band at Camp.—The Community Service Boys' Band of Elmira, which is making for itself an enviable place as a community asset, went camping last summer ninety-eight strong, with a number of Boy Scout officers and Community Service members. Every hour of the day was devoted to some form of activity, such as swimming, volley ball, basket ball and other games. Two hours each day were devoted to band practice. While the boys were in camp they gave two concerts attended by people from neighboring towns.

Michigan Music Teachers Endorse Community Service.—At the annual session of the Michigan Music Teachers' Association in Bay City, Michigan, June 26-28, a formal endorsement of the aims and methods of Community Service in its musical activities, was passed.

Fiddlers' Contest.—*Sally and Her Crippled Chicken,* played by Henry Taylor, a farmer from Cairo, Missouri, won the prize at the fiddlers' contest held in Paris, Missouri. The second prize went to Mrs. Lou Waterman, of Ozark, wife of a Baptist Minister. Mrs. Waterman had to travel two days to get to the contest, but her fiddle cheered her on the way.

More than a local or State interest should center around such an event, for the old dances and the tunes are a part of the folk art of our country, which we are in danger of failing to perpetuate.

Where Do We Go from Here?—Commenting on the opening of New York City's sixth season of stadium concerts, the *Boston Herald* of July 16th said:

"We are just beginning to realize the great charm of outdoor entertainment at this time of the year. Concerts, pageants, the drama, the movie, dancing, even prize fights out of doors, have an atmosphere which no amount of skill can shut within four walls. Many more than 12,000 enjoyed the municipal band concerts in Boston yesterday. After all, the great majority of us stay at home, voluntarily or perforce, in summer. In every large city there is an immense audience waiting for the right kind of open air diversion at night. The beaches, the girl-and-music shows and the moving pictures do not fill the void. The New York experiment and similar attempts in Boston and other metropolitan centres are hopeful signs that we shall yet find the solution to the interesting little problems which must first be solved, those of transportation, accessibility, scale of admission prices and form of entertainment.

Music for the Children of Hollywood.—An interesting movement to bring the best music to children has been successfully inaugurated in Hollywood by the creation of a special fund to defray the expenses of a series of orchestral concerts. The concerts will be held in the Hollywood Bowl under the direction of Emil Oberhoffer. Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., was host to fifteen thousand children at one such event, a feature of which was a brief music memory contest in which the Dvorak Humoresque was the most readily identified composition.

Mae Murray, motion picture star, who helped make the fund possible, when asked the reason for her interest in the project, said, "If you'd learned to dance by following the hand organ in New York, knowing that a strict grandmother was going to punish you as soon as she caught you; if you'd saved your pennies week in and week out to slip away to hear the music in the Metropolitan Opera House; if you'd 'bootlegged music' in a family who thought dancing feet a sin and rhythm

a vice, you'd know what fun it is to give other kiddies a chance to hear music without such labor."

Might not the present day generation of children have more of a chance if all of us could remember some of the longings of our own childhood which, for some reason, could not be expressed?

Municipal Bands.—In North Dakota and in South Dakota the state laws permit municipalities to tax themselves one mill for the development and maintenance of municipal bands. Mitchell and Aberdeen have thoroughly trained band leaders who are paid a yearly salary and the players are all paid a definite sum for rehearsals and public performances. They are put under definite discipline which requires them to keep up to a high mark.

Moving Picture Party.—Monroe, Michigan, Community Service, was host to 779 children at a theatre party July eighteenth. Tickets were distributed by the five play leaders on the three playgrounds.

The Enrichment of Rural Life.—*Rural Planning—The Social Aspects* has recently been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. In this bulletin the author, W. C. Nason, has described the successful attempts of a number of rural communities "to discover the beautiful in nature and to reveal it and to influence the production of beautiful things in public places." The accounts of parks acquired and improved, playgrounds and picnic places developed, community centers erected, river banks and roadways beautified, and civic centers established are records of unusual community achievements. These community projects are not discussed from the economic or technical standpoint but rather from the human side and the author points out that perhaps their greatest benefits have proved to be the enrichment of rural life and the development of a wholesome community spirit.

A Living Memorial.—Many children of Terre Haute, particularly those who are in institutions, are jubilant today over the gifts of apparatus and play equipment which Mr. and Mrs. George Krietenstein have made in memory of their son, Carl, who loved children.

At the day nursery, twenty-one little children are rejoicing over the slides and swings which have been installed. The Rose Orphan Home has a coaster slide, giant stride, seesaw, horizontal ladder, merry-go-round, ocean wave, and various kinds of swings. The Glenn Home has been equally fortunate.

In addition, plans are under way to turn Jockey Alley, once the most famous rendezvous in Indiana for horse traders, into a playground. Mr. Krietenstein has offered to equip it with apparatus, and the Park Board will provide leadership.

A further gift of Mr. Krietenstein is a camp for the Boy Scouts.

A Quick Response.—Goldsboro, North Carolina, determined to have a memorial community building and decided upon $25,000 as the goal to be reached. At the end of the second day, the canvassers found that $31,000 had already been raised. Upon this discovery it was unanimously decided that the goal would be raised to $35,000.

Two Months' Accomplishments.—Plainfield, N. J., has joined the ranks of the cities providing year round recreation. Early in June Mr. F. S. Mathewson became the director of the Public Recreation Commission which is in charge of the work.

On July 31 Mr. Mathewson reported the organization of thirty baseball teams for men and boys, each of the teams having a list of fifteen eligible to play. The three adult leagues are all self supporting, buying their own bats, balls and equipment and paying the umpire's fees. A horseshoe pitching tournament has been organized among the Bible classes of the city with a total of about one hundred men entering into the activity. In addition, four public tennis courts have been opened.

Increase in Use of Athletic Badge Tests.—In May, 1923, the Association sent out 1,766 badges for girls, 2,025 for boys. This means that the total number of girls' badges distributed in May is about 70% of the year's total for 1922; the total number of boys' badges for May is 50% of the 1922 total.

The tests for boys and girls have been published by the Bureau of Education as Physical Education Series No. 2. The publication

of the badges by the government will help greatly, it is believed, in furthering the use of the tests.

Edward T. Hartman Back in Massachusetts.—Edward T. Hartman for a long time Secretary of the Massachusetts Civic League and recently Managing Director of the Child Federation in Philadelphia has now been appointed Field Secretary on Housing and Town Planning for Massachusetts. Mr. Hartman will help local planning boards in dealing with their special problems.

N. E. A. Resolution.—"The National Education Association urges that adequate provision be made for the organization and supervision of courses in physical education and recreation in all elementary, secondary, normal schools and colleges of this nation. The purpose of such education includes the correction of physical defects and the development of useful bodily and mental habits through socialized recreation."

Davenport's New Natatorium.—It cost approximately $120,000 to build the new natatorium which occupies a city block in Davenport, Iowa. The tank is 100 by 240 feet and there is a house with dressing rooms for both men and women, showers, toilets, heating equipment and laundry. The entire plant is enclosed by a high brick wall. The water is kept clean and pure by means of a large pressure filter chlorinating machine cleaning the pool and a 1900 foot deep artesian well which constantly flows into the tank.

The general admission charge of 10 cents pays for the use of a dressing room, checking privilege, hot showers which are required, and a swim. Suits may be rented for 10 cents and towel and soap for 5 cents. The receipts are paying operating expenses. Children under sixteen are admitted free of charge every morning.

Johnstown Goes A-Swimming.—The swimming pool at Johnstown, Pa., has had a record breaking attendance.

"During the month of July," writes Leo J. Buettner, secretary of the Municipal Recreation Commission, "the total attendance was 12,404. Of this number 6,738 were children in attendance at the free sessions in the mornings during a period of twenty-six days. During these morning sessions, the children will first get setting-up exercises and are then taught to swim properly. It is a wonderful sight to see from two to five hundred children lined up around the pool going through these exercises. During the afternoon and evening periods, when adults are charged 20c and children 10c for the privilege of checking their clothes and belongings, 1,478 adults and 4,188 children were in attendance at the swimming pool. These figures include Sundays, when the swimming pool is open from two to six."

The Playground Post.—The Junior edition of the *Playground Post*, the first number of which appeared on July 7, is an enterprising sheet of interest to the children and adults of Baltimore. In view of the fact that the Playground Athletic League now has a total of seventy-two playgrounds operated for children ten years of age and under, the *Post* has a large field of service.

Home Products in Carbondale.—Lantern evening at Carbondale, Pa., brought out five hundred children who paraded their home made lanterns with much pride. A wind mill carried by one group was symbolic of the one mill which the citizens interested in recreation want added to the tax rate for the maintenance of playgrounds.

The children of Carbondale are now the possessors of a twenty foot slide constructed at a cost of less than $20 but at the expenditure of much thought and labor on the part of a number of members of the Community Service neighborhood committee.

Youthful Sculptors.—One of the features of the playground program at Hagerstown, Maryland, is clay modeling with plasticine, a soft mud in all colors. The children are first taught to make forms with wire; then with plasticine they mold and shape animals, figures and articles of various kinds.

Playground Government.—Junior citizens are functioning on the Clarksburg, West Virginia playgrounds. The boys and girls are dividing the honors evenly. On one of the grounds there are a chief of police and two patrolmen, a city engineer in charge of the care of apparatus on the playground, a director

of recreation who sees to it that the playground teams line up promptly for tournaments, a health officer who has selected a city nurse to take charge of first aid at meets and a sanitary officer whose first campaign—a drive for clean faces—has met with great success. A city council and a House of Representatives and Senate are in charge of policy making and planning.

Community Service Becomes Municipal.—Portland, Oregon, Community Service has become a department of the city, merging the city playground work and the community service activities. A new department of the park bureau, known as the playground and recreation division, headed by John C. Henderson, the former community service executive, will carry on the work, with less duplication and with full city authority.

Surprise Day on the Playground.—In Haverhill, Massachusetts, Wednesdays are left open so that each playground may plan its own program. One active playground has had a series of interesting clown stunts and similar events. On a recent cool afternoon a box of marshmallows was purchased at wholesale and sold to the children at eight for a cent to be toasted in the fire. On another afternoon frankfurters were purchased at wholesale prices and sold at the rate of two for a penny. With potatoes roasted in the playground fire, the children had a happy time. A bacon bat was another special activity which was at this playground. For the newsboys who were obliged to leave before the hour for "eats," the play leader planned a special breakfast hike.

Not so Easy as it Looked.—Dr. Walter Kennedy, vice-president of the Parks and Playgrounds Association of Montreal, writes of a famous baseball game in which a group of business men, members of St. James Club, were the challengers—the boys of the Stephens Estate Playground, the challenged.

At five o'clock sharp, nine stalwarts from St. James Club entered the grounds accompanied by their supporters and headed by their mascots—a couple of geese. The captain, Mr. Walter Ramsay, immediately entered into conference with the captain of the boys' team who generously allowed the men to bat first. And then the fun commenced!

Being absolutely confident of their prowess, it had previously been decided by the club men to let the boys down easy. But the game had not proceeded very far before it became a case of the grown-ups fighting for their lives. Captain Ramsay decided to bat first to show his team how it should be done. If the ball had been the size of a balloon he might have sent it out of the lot, unfortunately, it was not, and he was fanned out, to the great delight of the boys and the consternation of his team. But the other club members were little better, and no runs were scored.

And then came the boys' turn. The first ball over the plate was sent out of the lot by Tony, and this wasn't the last homer for the boys, who were not retired until the side had reached a score of nine. Two more innings were played, but the club men could only manage to get two runs, while the boys ran up a score of thirty.

It was a great game and gave delight to young and old, to players and spectators.

Recreational Needs in St. Louis.—The annual report of the Division of Parks and Recreation of the Department of Public Welfare, St. Louis, shows a remarkable growth in the use of the recreation facilities provided by the city. So great, however, is the need for additional facilities, states Rodowe Abeken, Superintendent of Recreation, in his report, that the recent bond issue of four and a half million dollars will only temporarily relieve conditions. All recreational facilities, Mr. Abeken estimates, are over-taxed, on the whole, at least 250%.

Money for Recreation in Corry, Pa.—The City Council of Corry has voted one-fourth of a mill for recreation in 1924, and the School Board has increased its appropriation to $1200. These funds and others secured by private subscription will be administered by Corry Community Service.

Playground Circuses Popular.—A three ring circus witnessed by six thousand people was the culmination of the playground season at Reading, Pa. Trained animals, clowns, acts by a troupe of professional acrobats whose homes are in the city, dances and stunts of all kinds made up the program. The parade which preceded the circus was complete in

every detail. Motor vans, the use of which was contributed by local business men, were converted into band wagons and animal cages, and the procession was led by mounted police.

In Haverhill, Mass., the parade which was arranged as the closing event of the playground season was led by the playground marshals, city officials and no less a person than the mayor of the city, followed by a bevy of clowns and costumed children carrying their playground banner. A hurdy gurdy proved an excellent substitute for a calliope. The circus itself was a series of thrills. The children of the playground had planned it all, and the show announcers, the barkers, the ring masters and the performers were all chosen from playground circles.

Their Own Playground.—Italian fathers of Portchester, New York, under the leadership of Miss Rosalind Reiman, Recreation Superintendent, have made and installed equipment for a playground in the Purdy section of the city. Much of the material used in the construction of the playground was contributed by local merchants.

An Asset.—The Chamber of Commerce of a mid-western city recently got out a folder—Facts About Our City—listing first of all in largest type **People United in Community Service.**

"Before and After" in Passaic.—On June 19th there might have been seen in Passaic, New Jersey, a tract of land composed largely of a small forest of trees and tangled underbrush which had for some time been a hangout for boys who were known as truants and young bandits.

On July 9th, the observer would have seen this tract of land occupied by an equipped playground. The Boy Scouts started the work of clearing off the brush and with the aid of several high school boys soon changed the whole nature of the land. The playground is so located that it is serving a large factory population. The Recreation Board, of which Reeves B. Harris is superintendent, has placed two directors in charge of the ground.

During 1922 the city of Passaic operated two playgrounds and one indoor swimming pool. This year, through the action of the Board of Education in making school yards available, there are seven playgrounds, three athletic fields and a large indoor swimming pool in charge of the Board.

Community Service Tennis.—New Haven Community Service secured the use of three tennis courts at a nominal charge and through an appeal in the local bulletin obtained a supply of used raquets for lending.

Fathers and Sons.—The Y. M. M. I. A. program provides for an annual summer outing for fathers and sons in each ward or stake in Salt Lake City. An attractive bulletin giving reasons for promoting the outing, a suggested program and a brief report form helps to stimulate the various stakes to plan and carry out the celebration.

Retrogression?—A number of community workers have commented upon a tendency away from Safe and Sane Fourth of July Celebrations. If such a tendency is widespread leaders should be planning through the year for an adequate celebration holding the gains made in the last decade for a rational and dignified observance of our national holiday. These gains represent a triumph of organized recreation. They should not be easily surrendered.

Boston maintains a Public Celebration Association, which works with the city officials on all such occasions. It thus gains, of course, cumulative influence.

One hundred thousand people sang together on Boston Common in the evening last Fourth. An illuminated parade of decorated canoes, dance features and a patriotic finale, "Our Flag in History" filled out the program. There was a brief display of fireworks at the very end.

Many other cities have been successful in this problem. THE PLAYGROUND will welcome suggestions.

"Play is a spiritual tonic. It gives zest to all of life. The child who has not learned the secret of play has missed something of very great importance from his life."

"We have been slow in discovering that play is a most essential factor in God's plan of making men and women out of boys and girls."

Resolutions by the Playground and Recreation Association of America

Relative to
THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARDING
and his Services to the Recreation Movement

WHEREAS President Warren G. Harding continuously during his term of office manifested a keen and sympathetic interest in community recreation and repeatedly in public addresses spoke of the vital importance of increasing the opportunities through play for the greater happiness of all of the men, women and children of America; and declared that the time ought to come when a part of the money now being expended in keeping our country prepared for war should go for the building of the more universal happiness of the people: and,

WHEREAS for two successive years President Harding gave official recognition and sanction to the recreation movement by designating a National Play Week, thus emphasizing his repeated declarations as to the need for general participation in play and its constructive values in building for the happiness and health of our citizenship; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved that in the death of President Harding the Playground and Recreation Association of America recognizes the loss of a sincere and powerful advocate of recreation, and gratefully acknowledges its appreciation of his signal service to the cause through sympathetic and constant cooperation in promoting community recreation as a means toward a happier and stronger citizenship.

President Harding frequently expressed his sympathy with the aims of the leisure-time movement. In 1922 and 1923, he wrote to Joseph Lee, President of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, commending the Play Week sponsored by the Association. These letters were published in THE PLAYGROUND at the time. Upon the occasion of the Recreation Congress in Atlantic City, October, 1922,

President Harding wrote as follows:

The White House
Washington

October 5, 1922

My dear Mr. Lee:

I will be glad to have you convey for me an expression of endorsement and encouragement to the delegates who will gather for the National Recreation Congress on Monday next. The growth of organized activities and instrumentalities for proper public recreation has been one of the notable incidents of recent years in this country and in efforts for further expansion along this line I feel that your organization is entitled to the utmost encouragement and approval.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) WARREN G. HARDING.

At another time he said, "I hope to see a Republic where every citizen can find an opportunity to play a little."

"I would like to have a little less, or much less, destruction and more resources for construction in America. I would like to have less of toil to maintain armies and navies and more of play to hearten the American people. I don't believe the best of success comes out of the constant grind. I would like an America where there is some becoming leisure and opportunity for recreation, not for just a few people, but for a fortunate American people in which all may participate.

One very touching incident of President Harding's abiding interest in play and boys is that of a Washington boy who wrote asking the President to come to a ball to be held to raise money for a swimming pool. Out of his busy day the President took time to write encouragement to the boy, recalling his own boyish delight in the "ole swimmin' hole."

The assistant to the Attorney General, speaking at the dedication of Harding Park at Hubbard, Ohio, stated:

"President Harding's aim has always been to enable us all to enjoy the bountiful products

of our natural resources and the fruits of successful industry.

"This park is well dedicated in the name of President Harding, because of his deep and abiding belief in the need for recreation. He was a man who was willing to work, but he also loved to play. Much as he loved to play, his untimely end came as a sacrifice to the ceaseless toil demanded of his position.

"Recreation plays a real part in every successful life. It is not all of life to earn a living. We have a right to know the joy of living. While much joy comes from labor, in order to fully enjoy the fruits of toil, we must have moments of contact where rest and recreation are dominant. When we have learned the true meaning of life as expressed in one's dedication of himself in supplying some human need, may we not at the same time learn the value of recreation and learn how to best use that part of our time?

"This park is not only for today, but for your children and for their children. An effort devoted to the welfare and happiness of a child will bring bigger results than anywhere else it can be expended. We can do nothing better than to teach our children how to occupy their leisure.

"We are paying our tribute to that quality of President Harding which was typified in his love of play. May we not now determine that a realization of those hours of play is worthy of our most serious and continued endeavor."

Recreation in Indianapolis Forges Ahead

Indianapolis is again carrying on in two of its parks the unique experiment in municipal drama which it instituted last year. The Moremba players of Florida and the Municipal Players alternate in giving performances, and the two groups are also available for club luncheons and affairs generally throughout the city. In addition to the municipal plays, band concerts, for which $6,000 has been appropriated this year, are making a contribution to the art side of the program.

Six new parks have been added, making a total of forty-one in operation this summer. A $40,000 addition has been made to the municipal golf course. The United States Swivle Company has donated the use of four acres of its property for playgrounds, as have also the Presto-lite Company. The city has graded the property and the grounds will be used by the employees at noon hours and by the general public at other hours. This will give the city fifteen new playground ball fields.

A new playground to be known as the Finch Playground has been made possible through a bequest of $10,000 by Mrs. Finch. A bond issue of $265,000 was used for a six acre playground.

A unique feature this year is the angling pool for the use of sportsmen. The city has built a pool about sixty feet square which will be used for practice casting. At times when it is not serving this purpose, it will belong to the children as a wading pool.

Entrants in the stilt contest conducted by the Playground and Recreation Association of Wyoming Valley.

Wilkes-Barre Gets Playground Spirit

By

Arthur H. Miller

There is a beautiful and well-known story called *The Happy Prince*, written by Oscar Wilde, which might well be the theme of a pageant of a city transformed and made better and happier through the birth of the playground spirit. During his life time the "Happy Prince" failed to see the suffering in his city but after his death his golden statue looked out from its high place upon the city forlorn and unhappy. Then came a little swallow who remained with the "Happy Prince," carrying out his errands of kindness, until the city was transformed. It seems to be almost a parable of many of our cities which have overlooked the value and happiness that comes through the development of their recreation resources, until someone with a detached viewpoint and vision of the whole city and its needs has come along and aided in bringing about the transformation.

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, is a city which has known such a transformation. After more than a decade of heroic effort on the part of leading citizens enough of the population got the vision of its recreation needs to demand a full-time director of playgrounds and recreation. That was the beginning of what has perhaps meant more to Wilkes-Barre than anything since the momentous discovery of its rich coal fields. Charles H. English came to Wilkes-Barre in 1922, and the playground cohorts were greatly strengthened, hundreds of people got the vision and since then the playground spirit has swept not only the city of Wilkes-Barre but is spreading up and down the Wyoming Valley and bringing happiness to thousands of children in the many mining communities which were formerly playgroundless, and today if you want to know what a well organized and efficiently supervised playground system can mean to the happiness and well being of a city just ask anyone from Wilkes-Barre.

But transformations of this kind are not brought about by a wave of the wand. To build up a playground system in one year from seven to twenty-seven playgrounds with a staff of forty-seven play leaders serving communities totaling 150,000 in population calls for the best efforts of the biggest man to be had. In Wilkes-Barre it required all of the ability and rich experience of Mr. English, covering many years of work in the national recreation movement, developing playgrounds and recreation systems in many cities through the United States. And this is not all; it also requires the loyal backing and belief in the work of the real men and women of a city. This Mr. English has had to an ever increasing extent.

In 1922, there were seven playgrounds which were increased to nine by the end of the year. This summer there were twenty-seven

playgrounds through an affiliated system known as the Wyoming Valley Playground and Recreation Association, cooperating with seven boroughs outside of the city proper including West Wyoming, Kingston, Luzerne, Forty Fort, Plymouth, Ashley, Sugar Notch, two settlement houses, Hanover Township, and acting as the operating agency for the Lehigh Valley Coal Company and the Haddock Coal Company. Five boroughs have initiated their first playground work this year and many obstacles have been overcome.

This summer the playgrounds opened on June eighteenth for a period of eleven weeks. Mr. English has firm convictions of his own regarding the use of playgrounds. Apparatus does not mean so much to him as a progressive program of educational and character-building play. He picks his play leaders and supervisors with this in mind and he sees to it personally that the program is carried out by them.

Each week the program carried with it a special objective to capture and retain the interest of the children. Furthermore these special objectives were really civic events and demonstrated to the city at large something of the creative ability of its children. They also stirred the pride of the children in making the most creditable demonstration they knew how and the competition between playgrounds was very keen.

The first week was noteworthy for its "Pet Show." There is nothing especially new about the Pet Show although Mr. English was one of the first ones to use the idea. This year the original idea was greatly enhanced with a miniature menagerie and a real circus program carried out with pets on each playground. Each child was given an opportunity to exhibit the tricks of its pet.

The second week brought the original doll show. Every imaginable idea that the childish mind, so versatile in this respect, could conceive was carried out in the manufacture of these dolls. Hundreds of them were turned in each day from the playgrounds and exhibited during the week in the windows of a big store in the heart of the city. There were so many of them that the exhibit had to be changed twice a day so that every doll could make its debut. The owner of the store said that he had never seen such record crowds in front of his windows and the advertising was of inestimable value to him. But Mr. English is not partial to any particular store and gives them all an opportunity during the course of the year to exhibit something in their windows. They are constantly clamoring for exhibits.

The third week ushered in the doll house construction competition and boys and girls vied with each other in creating churches, cottages, schools, bungalows, houses of all kinds; and there was even a chicken house with its feathered occupants perched on the roosts. One bright little girl conceived and carried out the idea of a little sugar house to which Hansel and Gretel were lured by the old witch in fairy tale land.

Another week was taken up with athletic events including a track and field meet for the boys, roller skating contests for the girls, and a stilt contest, all with hundreds of competitors.

One of the most noteworthy events of the playground program was the lantern parade. During the whole week the children of various playgrounds were busy creating these marvelous lanterns. There had been lantern parades before but none to compare with this one for each playground was assigned a theme for the construction of its lanterns. Among the subjects assigned were naval, flower, spirit of play, Mother Goose rhymes, hunting scenes, butterflies, aeroplanes, moon and stars, Japanese, natural history, animals, sports, school days, a famous poem, national groups, and *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. In many cases the children were costumed to carry out the picture and as the procession moved through the main streets of the city it carried with it in the color, costumes and singing, the atmosphere of a festive day in some old Continental city.

Still another week brought the pageant of the Pied Piper of Hamlin, all of the action including the rats being portrayed by the playground children. This creditable event was developed by the two workers in charge of the storytelling on the Wilkes-Barre playgrounds, both of whom are talented Wilkes-Barre girls who have the advantage of dramatic training. All summer they had been a familiar sight to thousands of Wilkes-Barrians as they went from one playground to another garbed in their quaintly beautiful gypsy costumes.

Another big feature was the annual speedway contest otherwise known as pushmobile races. These races were held on the River Commons and witnessed by thousands of people. It would be impossible to describe the skill and care with which hundreds of boys built their pushmobiles

(*Continued on page 414*)

Planning Recreation for a New Town

By

Glenn Hall

One of the features of the new town of Mariemont, now being developed near Cincinnati, Ohio, is the ample provision being made for parks, playgrounds and other recreational areas. Plans for the town have been prepared by John Nolen, town and city planner, Cambridge, Mass., and his associate, Philip W. Foster. The development is under the general supervision of the town planners. Mrs. Mary M. Emery, of Cincinnati, founder of the town, has had the project under consideration for some time. Mrs. Emery's chief representative and the inspiring genius of the enterprise is Charles J. Livengood, of Cincinnati, President of the Mariemont Company. While the establishment of the community is due to Mrs. Emery's realization of the fact that most workers need better environment and opportunities for recreation and to her desire to contribute to the welfare of humanity, the project is being carried out on a practical, business basis.

Of the 365 acres in the town site, 70 acres will be devoted to parks and other public spaces. There are over 50 acres in parks alone. In addition to the parks, a stadium, an athletic field, a large playground and several smaller ones around school buildings and tennis courts will be provided. The recreation facilities are planned for a population over a larger area. Mariemont provides directly for a population of about 5,000, with an immediately surrounding population reaching ultimately to nearly 10,000 people.

The largest park, comprising about 21 acres, is called Dogwood Park on account of the abundance of dogwood on the site. An adjoining tract of about 19 acres of woods may be included in the park, making a total of 40 acres. The location is ideal in that advantage has been taken of a large wooded ravine in the southwestern part of the town site admirably suited for a park. With the ordinary haphazard growth of suburbs around our large cities, this ravine would probably have become a dumping ground for tin cans and other waste, but with intelligent planning such areas can be utilized for an appropriate and valuable purpose.

The park site is unusually well wooded. The trees and other vegetation are all native growth in an unspoiled state. Dogwood is the predominant small tree, while among the larger trees are many fine beeches. Other trees include the white oak, slippery elm, wild cherry, black walnut, blackberry, tulip, sycamore, judas or redbud, sassafras, catalpa and paw-paw. The park will be kept in its natural state as far as is consistent with the beauty of the whole area. Easy paths will be laid out to guide the stranger and provide for circulation. Shelters will be located at convenient points. At the upper end of the big ravine, near Wooster Pike which is the principal street of the town, a small lagoon will be located in a natural depression. Water will be diverted from a brook that flows through the ravine and a bath house will be placed at one end of the lagoon.

When the park is fully developed, its typical characteristics will probably be the tall, towering trees rising from the steep slopes of the ravine, grassy glades, a peaceful lagoon, a murmuring brook and in the spring the incomparable beauty of thousands of dogwood blossoms fluttering on graceful branches beneath the great oaks and beeches.

Dogwood Park not only has great natural beauty but it also has an historical and archaelogical interest, for part of the park area was once an Indian village and burial ground. During the process of construction skeletons, arrowheads and pieces of pottery have been unearthed that have been pronounced by authorities to be over 400 years old.

Adjoining Dogwood Park on the east is a large open area where the athletic field will be located. The site is particularly well suited for the purpose on high level ground lying between the large ravine of Dogwood Park and a smaller ravine on the south. The field is a large triangular-shaped area surrounded by the woods of Dogwood Park on the two long sides of the triangle. Very little grading will be required to fit the field for use. There will be two baseball diamonds. Other sports requiring apparatus will be provided in the playground north of the athletic field and near the field house. There are about 7 acres in the athletic field and playground site.

Dale Park is located north of Dogwood Park,

being separated by Wooster Pike, an 80 foot street, which leads directly to the town center. There are about 7½ acres in the site. Dale Park's chief characteristic is implied in its name. A beautiful grassy dale will occupy the center of the park resembling somewhat the quiet refinement and peacefulness of an English park, with a brook winding around through the dale and gently-sloping tree-covered hills rising up from the meadowland. On one side of the dale are three large spreading oaks, very picturesque in outline. Additional trees and shrubs will be planted to bring out the individuality of the park.

Dale Park will be the neighborhood park for the residents of the group, with semi-detached houses to the north and west. In one corner of the park there is an old cemetery, in relation to which a church will be located. Just within the northern boundary of the park a school will be built.

The stadium and school block, located between Dale Park and the town center and north of Wooster Pike, take up about 8½ acres of ground. There is a considerable depression in the topography on this block, so that the site is well chosen. It is not well adapted to residence purposes and there are not enough existing trees to warrant its use as a park. A football field with a running track of four laps to the mile will be located about in the center of the area. A concrete grandstand will be on the west side of the field with turf slopes around the other sides. A field house and recreation building will be constructed between the grandstand and Plainville Pike. The building will be two stories high, built of brick in an adaptation of Colonial and English architecture. There will be an auditorium seating 400 people, a billiard room, Boy Scout and Girl Scout rooms, social rooms, a buffet kitchen, locker and shower rooms. Doors from the auditorium will open out on a terrace on the north side of the building overlooking the tennis courts. Four tennis courts will be laid out here. Four other tennis courts will be located in the southeastern part of town on the community building block, at the town center.

On the south side of the stadium a school building will be located on high ground facing on Wooster Pike. The basement or ground floor of the school building will be practically on a level with the football field.

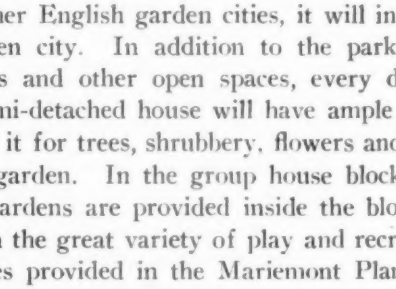
A public park reservation will be established along the steep bluffs overlooking the Little Miami River on the south side of the town. Miami Bluff Drive will run between the reservation and the bordering residence property. The top of the bluffs is about 120 feet above the river. Under the arching limbs of great oaks, elms and locusts and other trees magnificent views will be framed of the fertile valley below, with its waving cornfields, green meadows and groves of trees dotting the level valley floor. To the southwest, where the Little Miami joins the Ohio River, the blue hills of Kentucky can be seen in the distance.

A semi-circular concourse, with a pergola or outlook on the edge of the bluff will terminate the broad vista down Center Avenue from the town center. Farther along the drive a belvedere will be erected at another outlook point.

There will be nine or ten small street parks or greens at street intersections. These parks will add more open spaces, give character and distinction to the streets and reflect, in some degree, the cool, green restfulness and beauty of the large parks. At the town center will be a large village green shaded by beeches and maples that are already on the site.

While the name "Garden City" is not used in connection with Mariemont, although in general conception it resembles Letchworth, Hampstead and other English garden cities, it will indeed be a garden city. In addition to the parks, playgrounds and other open spaces, every detached and semi-detached house will have ample ground around it for trees, shrubbery, flowers and a vegetable garden. In the group house blocks allotment gardens are provided inside the block.

With the great variety of play and recreational facilities provided in the Mariemont Plan, every man, woman and child in the community will have an opportunity to enjoy some form of sport or recreation. Such enjoyment should result in local happiness, contentment and civic pride, so that Mariemont may fairly become "a national exemplar," which is an ideal sincerely hoped for by the founders and planners of this new town of the Middle West.



Boys Rejoice at Renaissance of Harmonica

By

Kenneth S. Clark

Any musical instrument which is fairly easy to master is likely to be regarded slightlingly by the musical literate. Such has been the fate of the harmonica—colloquially known as the mouth organ. The worm has turned, however, and the mouth organ is coming into its own. A harmonica virtuoso has appeared as a soloist with the symphony orchestra in one of New York's big movie palaces. That is but a symptom of a belated recognition of what one editorial writer recently called "the most maligned musical instrument on earth." Another and more enthusiastic commentator referred to it as the king of instruments. The chief factor in this renaissance of the mouth organ has been the growth of the harmonica contest idea.

We sport-loving Americans seem to be especially susceptible to the contest idea as a stimulator of interest in a given subject or project. That is why the recent organizing of these contests has produced a remarkable outcropping of harmonica playing among us. The instrument is attractive to anyone, young or old. For instance, a celebrated newspaper humorist, F. P. A. of the *New York World,* is one of its devotees. However, the instrument gives especially happy self-expression to the boy. For him it is a most effective safety valve. He can literally "blow" himself more satisfactorily with the harmonica than with any other instrument save the cornet, which is difficult of performance. What with the natural liking of boys for the mouth organ it may become for them a guide toward musical appreciation and mastery of other and more beautiful instruments. For these reasons the harmonica contest idea, while adaptable for all, is being especially applied to boys.

In order to spread the renaissance of harmonica playing, Community Service has issued a bulletin entitled "A Harmonica Tournament" which describes the routine of organizing for such contests and certain details of instruction in playing the instrument. This bulletin may be obtained at $.10 from Community Service, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

City-Wide Organization

While scarcely any group is too small to admit of a harmonica contest, the plan is most fruitful when developed most broadly. Certainly, a city-wide development of the scheme is everywhere practicable, and the next steps are respectively the intersectional and finally the national contests. Details of two of the first city-wide contests offer a choice of methods for organization and constitute in themselves a routine of procedure.

Philadelphia

In Philadelphia the harmonica contest became a part of Boys' Week. It was headed up by the Philadelphia Music League, with Albert N. Hoxie, Jr., as the special chairman. The method of elimination was extremely elastic. The boys competing came from various schools, troops of Boy Scouts and other groups. Four night meetings were held at the Young Men's Christian Association for the purpose of allowing prospective contestants to undergo an examination. Out of those thus offering themselves, some fifty-three boys were chosen for the semi-finals. A letter was sent to each of the boys by the Mayor, who invited them to appear at his office for the semi-finals. On that occasion the Mayor addressed the candidates, linking up their participation in the contest with their responsibilities in various forms of community life. Twenty-five of the semi-finalists were chosen for the final contest in the Broad Street Theatre.

In the final contest the judges were Joseph Pasternack, director of the Victor Orchestra, Dr. Herbert Tily, conductor of the Strawbridge and Clotheir Chorus, and Leigh Mitchell Hodges of the *Philadelphia North American.* Mr. Hoxie addressed the contestants, citing the careers and activities of Mr. Pasternack and Dr. Tily as an indication of the opportunities open to them for musical expression in Philadelphia should their harmonica playing lead them into a serious study of music.

In the Philadelphia finals each boy was permitted to select his own repertoire. The contest

finally narrowed down to three players who were instructed to perform again for the judges. The latter awarded the prize to James M. Tyson, Jr., who received a gold medal, a complete outfit of clothing and a contract of $150 for a week's vaudeville appearance. Of course in a contest sponsored by playground or other educational organizations a more desirable first prize would be substituted. To the second prize winner, Frank Kane, there came an additional offer of a year's scholarship for musical instruction at the Combs Conservatory. The lad chose the violin as his instrument for that instruction. The first prize winner decided to take up the tympani.

The final contestants in the Harmonica Contest in Philadelphia have formed a Harmonica Band

New York City

New York City's championship contest was under the auspices of the municipal government, represented by Park Commissioner Francis D. Gallatin and directed actively by his assistant, J. V. Mulholland, Supervisor of Recreation. Among the newspapers, the plan was sponsored especially by the *New York World,* which offered special prizes besides giving the contest such advance publicity as to insure a widespread knowledge of it.

The rules stipulated that boys must not be older than sixteen and must be in good standing at school. It was announced in advance that the boys must play *Home, Sweet Home* and *Marching through Georgia* for 75 per cent of their rating and that they would be allowed to play any other tune for the remaining 25 per cent. However, in the finals there was only one specified prize tune—*Home, Sweet Home.* The Supervisor of Recreation gave out a list of playgrounds where entries might be filed with the playground director. Entries were also received at various parks. Neighborhood and playground elimination contests were held a week before the finals. Three boroughs of the Greater City thereby picked out their representatives who appeared for the finals at the bandstand in Central Park.

As its judges the New York contest had Park Commissioner Gallatin, Reinald Werrenrath, the noted baritone, and Borrah Minevitch, a virtuoso of the harmonica.

The number of contestants was so large that the judges eliminated *Marching through Georgia* as a prize tune and allowed the boys to select any other number in addition to *Home, Sweet Home.* The melodies thus offered were largely current popular songs in addition to such compositions as *Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes, O Mari, Old Folks at Home and Juanita.* The competitors were finally narrowed down to eight who were instructed to perform again, preferably playing a tune that they had not already submitted.

The boys had been instructed to use a 10-hole harmonica in the key of C in order that all might play together in ensemble numbers. The entire group of contestants was thus directed in numerous pieces while the judges were making their decision. This demonstration was valuable not only in showing the possibilities for development of harmonica ensembles but also for its maintaining the interest of the audience during the deliberations of the judges.

Victory in the New York contest went to Benjamin Kossover, a Bronx boy who seemed to have an especially musical sense. Second place was won by a Negro lad, Herman Leonard, who showed a remarkable knack for extracting accidentals from the instrument that are not in its regular scale. Despite this unusual gift shown in the playing of "blues," the judges gave him second place because of the greater musical value in the victor's performance.

The prize winner received $50 in cash from the *World,* a week's vaudeville engagement at $100 a week and another $100 for recording a number on the phonograph, besides a solid gold medal.

Smaller Contests

Now that the broad horizon of this plan has been sketched, let us consider the basic unit of the scheme—the neighborhood, playground, boys' club or other group contest. In organizing the

contest in any such group—as well as on a large scale—the first step is creating enthusiasm for harmonica playing. Any indifference to the appeal of the harmonica must be eradicated if there is to be a general participation in the contest. Call a meeting at which some especially talented harmonica player will give a demonstration, thus arousing in the boys a desire to master the instrument. Include some playing by other boys and possibly an example of harmonica instruction.

Follow this with one or two gatherings of the interested boys. If possible, have a few harmonicas available for sale, in order to clinch at once the desire of the boys to master the instrument. Call further meetings of the players for instruction and a bit of ensemble playing. When the instruction has advanced far enough, hold the elimination contest along the lines described above. Next stage the final contest and have all the other contestants present to perform as a harmonica ensemble.

Choice of Instrument

These contests, as well as the introduction of harmonica playing in general, should be based upon a uniformity as to the type of instrument. Have all the boys use an instrument with 10 single holes with 20 reeds (10 blow reeds and 10 draw reeds.) An instrument is manufactured for each key in the scale, that is from C to B. However, in order that the boys may play together in an ensemble, have them all use an instrument in one specified key—preferably the key of C.

Details of Instruction

The essentials of learning to play the 10-hole harmonica are described in the bulletin "A Harmonica Tournament" previously mentioned. As indicated therein, the technic of playing the instrument rests largely upon a mastery of the scale. It is stipulated that for the 10-hole instrument only those melodies shall be chosen which do not include accidentals—in other words, those which have no sharps, flats or naturals which are foreign to the key signature. An excellent example of such a melody is *Home, Sweet Home.* An arrangement of this for the harmonica is included in the bulletin. A long list of other suitable numbers is given in the bulletin. It further includes directions for obtaining artistic effects such as the tremolo tone and an accompaniment to a melody.

A First Step in Music Training

The harmonica will be a guide toward general musical training for the boy if his family, teachers and friends will help him to make the most of its musical side. Besides the training of his ear it should enable him to read music more readily. He must learn first that even though he may have instruments tuned in various keys the scale is the same no matter what the key. When the boy becomes familiar with his do-mi-sol method of notation, he will be able to play from the music in various keys with entire ease. That should lead him to a general sight reading ability as a singer or instrumentalist.

Use with Other Instruments

Give the boy his share in the music of the home by having him play to the accompaniment of a piano, organ, guitar or other instrument. For that purpose he should have a harmonica for each of the following keys: C, D, F, G and A. He will then be able to play diatonic melodies in those keys such as the other members of the family may be using for their instruments.

A good family combination is that of the mouth organ performed by the boy and the ukulele played by his sister. These instruments are complements one to another, the harmonica supplying the melody and the ukulele the accompaniment and the rhythmic accent. If the boy is provided with harmonicas in the keys of D, G and A, he can play to the ukulele accompaniment with the use of the ukulele lessons issued by Community Service. These are the following: C. S. No. 85b, Revised Course in Ukulele Playing, price $.25; C. S. No. 85c, Supplement No. 1, price $.10; C. S. No. 85e, Supplement No. 2, price $.15; C. S. No. 85g, Supplement No. 3, price $.15.

Advanced Harmonica Playing

When the boy has mastered the smaller harmonica he may take up the chromatic instrument with which he can play in any key. By the slight manipulation of a lever, the accidentals may be played.

Recreation for Miners on Strike

FRANCES H. HAIRE

"Me no play, me too old" objected one after another of the group of foreign men and women seated along the wall in the Miners' Hall, "me just want watch."

"But I just want you to stand in the circle, you don't have to play," the play leader was pleading, then picking out a big strapping American she put it up to him in the age old feminine way, "You've got to help me get this party going, somebody's got to be willing to start the game, come on now, be a good sport then the others will follow," and as she talked she was pulling the big fellow into the middle of the ring and reaching way up on tip toe to tie a handkerchief over his eyes.

"Now," she continued, "I want a girl to be in the middle with him," then pausing just long enough to glance quickly around the circle, with the instinct of her profession she quickly selected his sweetheart from among the embarrassed girls. The men and women making the circle forgot themselves and laughed and clapped their hands. Play was new to them but love and the self-conscious way of lovers, was as old to them as life, so they twitted the pair and laughed anew at their blushes. Then when the game immediately began, unconsciously the enjoyment was transferred from the boy and girl to the game itself.

When that couple had finished another couple was chosen and at the third change two foreigners found themselves in the ring and forgot to be afraid. And while the fun was highest the game leader had been going around the edges of the room and drawing new recruits from those who refused at the first invitation, until all but the women unable to leave their babies were entering into the games.

That was the beginning of recreation work among miners down in Somerset County, Pennsylvania at a time when the miners were out on strike and had spent the summer in tents, garages and barns, and the winter in two-room shack barracks erected by the United Mine Workers' Union, with no money to spend, no place to go, and nothing to do but talk strike.

Snow and lack of warm clothing prevented any outdoor recreation for children and the cold inside the Miners' Hall made only very active games enjoyable, so after school on the days of the visits of the play leader, a ragged assortment of boys and girls, big and little, presented themselves at the Miners' Hall with dirty faces, and sniffling colds, and chapped hands, believing that the small equipment of rubber balls, volley ball and net, and relay sticks, and the "play teacher" presented the most wonderful play-time they had ever had.

The six weeks' program consisted of, for the boys ball games, races, chasing games and marching tactics, and for the girls ball games, dramatic games, races and folk dances. The adults had once a week play parties of social games, musical games, and marches, with in addition athletic games and feats of strength and volley ball for the men.

As a result of the six weeks' work three local unions have expressed their appreciation to Community Service by letter of the work done and several union officials have expressed a desire to see the plan continued on a local expense basis.

BOOK WEEK

November 11 will mark the opening of the Fifth Annual Children's Book Week, which will be nationally observed. The National Committee for Better Films at 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City, will cooperate by providing a list of films drawn from literature and good current novels which may be secured upon application to the committee. The list is prefaced by an outline of the steps which should be taken locally to make these performances a success. Return postage should accompany the request for the list.

The Film Distributing Companies will do everything possible to make the week a success by having a supply of prints of the subjects available at their exchanges throughout the country. Among the films of special interest at Book Week time are *To Have and to Hold, Treasure Island, Evangeline, Rip Van Winkle, The Little Minister, Robin Hood, Alice Adams, Oliver Twist, David Copperfield, Vanity Fair.*

The beneficial effect of such book film performances upon reading is attested by librarians who report heavily increased demand for books, whether classic or modern, as they have appeared in the movies. Another good result which may follow is permanent activity on the part of some local groups to win support for better films throughout the year.

Neighborhood Parties

By Nina B. Lamkin

The size of our city or town or rural district determines in a way the size of our neighborhood. Through the church, school and club organizations existing in a neighborhood you can bring in every family through some community programs which families can enjoy together.

What families and neighborhoods do in the way of activities set standards for the community. Some one takes the lead and talks with representatives from other organized groups in your section, perhaps you yourself do it, and before you have gone far in your suggestions you will have a neighborhood group whose influence will make the work of each group larger because all are thinking more in terms of the neighborhood. Everyone in the neighborhood is asked to come to a "First Party"—they are always asked to any others given after this. Keep inviting them—they will come.

The different churches or the schools may be the best indoor centers. A neighborhood playground which your interested group has started will naturally be the outdoor center. The first committees which would be needed would be—Invitation, Program, Refreshments. We shall not formally organize The Neighborhood Club until we have had one good time together, because a great many would not be interested until after this first party.

Suggestions for Neighborhood Days and Evenings

1. *Echoes of Yesterday*

Costumes

Each family comes costumed to represent an earlier day. No money is to be spent on costumes. Old dresses and scarfs are brought down from the attic. Bonnets, caps and fichus are made from everything, from wrapping paper to valuable old scarfs and laces. No historical dates are given as guides in costuming. You can wear a dress of five years or a hundred years ago. Some of our own costumes of five or ten years ago are exceedingly funny now. The men can easily fashion a good costume by doctoring up a hat and a coat.

1. Each family is asked to think of something that has happened in the family in the past that will make a good stunt.
   a. Father's first talk over the telephone
   b. Brother's first pair of long pants and how the family felt about it
   c. When sister could play *The Maiden's Prayer*
   d. The first time we went to a movie
   e. A camping experience
   f. The favorite story that mother told the children

These numbers are called for during the evening. No number is to be more than two minutes long.

2. *The Old Family Album*

On the stage if there is one, or at one end of the room make a wooden frame and cover with black. In this setting pose pictures from the old album. Certain families have been asked each to do one of these pictures. Have five or six poses.

3. *Songs*

These may be solos, quartettes, larger groups and some sung by the entire gathering.
   a. Old Oaken Bucket
   b. When You and I Were Young Maggie (sung by old couple)
   c. Silver Threads among the Gold
   d. One or two of the old hymns

4. *Games*
   a. Looby Loo—by children and grown-ups
   b. Jolly is the Miller (fathers and daughters)
   c. Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley (mothers and sons)

5. Refreshments—Apples and popcorn

6. Good Night Ladies—Sung while everyone shakes hands with his neighbor.

Did you have a good time?

Do you want another party?

Can we form a Neighborhood Organization now and elect officers?

Shall we set the date for the next party?

Have new committees on Invitation, Program and Refreshments each time.

Each family pays small membership dues, twenty-five cents or fifty cents a month. This covers refreshments. Keep refreshments *small* but *fun* very large.

A club like this will soon want to begin to improve the neighborhood playground and to help in a civic way. The families will grow closer together and the spirit in the neighborhood will grow from "each family for themselves" to "every family for the neighborhood."

II. The neighborhood assembles for a "Costume Parade"—funny costumes or artistic ones, but made from things at home. Some songs which everyone knows can be sung during the parade or a group can prepare a song and take turns singing it. Have it a marching song so that with a drummer boy or two you can have music.

The neighborhood may have several musicians and you may have your own band or orchestra. After the parade all gather at the party center.

Program

1. A Song as: Liza Jane—Love's Old Sweet Song

2. How Do You Do

Everyone has been asked to take an assumed name for the evening—something funny. Ten nickels have been given to ten guests and the holders of the nickels are not known to the others. The tenth person who shakes hands with anyone holding a nickel gets it. So everyone shakes hands, telling their "nom de plume" for the evening, and those who have the nickels keep count and award the tenth one.

3. Program Committee appoints four or six captains and they divide up the guests into groups. Each group has five minutes to arrange a charade to present to the whole company. Tell how many syllables the word you will act out has, whether it is a common or a proper noun; how many scenes will there be. You can have each syllable a scene and then one which gives the entire word or have just the latter.

Suggested Words

Runabout—Run-a-bout (Come in and run around each other and out)

Topknot—1st group—spinning top
2nd—Wedding ceremony

Galveston—Gal-vest-on (Put a man's vest on one of the girls and she marches through as all admire her)

You can think of many good words. These charades are called for by calling the captains in turn. The company guess.

Stunts

a. Tie up candy hearts, two in a packet, in bright paper and tie this packet in the center of two yards of string. Fix several of these. Choose a couple for each string. On "Go!" they each take an end of the string and chew up to the packet. Who wins?

b. A children's group dramatize one of their school stories as: Little Red Hen; Gingerbread Man; Hansel and Gretel (One of the teachers has this group ready.)

c. One of the Sunday School teachers of a boys' class is asked to bring a three minute stunt.

d. A Musical Love Story—Some one who plays well and knows the old songs accompanies a story told by one of the group. It might begin like this: "As I was sitting on the porch last night whom should I see coming down the street but *Robin Adair* and with him that sweet girl that has just lately come to town—*Annie Laurie*. They told me that they had met each other *Comin' through the Rye* and were on their way to see *The Old Folks at Home*. The story may ramble on as long as it is interesting. When the narrator reaches a song title he stops and the pianist plays a few measures and the company guess what it is—supplying this part of the story each time.

e. Draw a curtain at end of room and show an old Valentine—the kind we used to get with beautiful paper embroidery. By taking white and colored sheets of paper which you can buy in rolls you can fix up a very good looking valentine frame. Pose some pictures in there—typical of the old valentines. Have three or four of these. Have music played during the pictures. Some of the old love songs as:

"Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes"
"Good Morning Pretty Maid"
"Sally in Our Alley"

f. Games—by the children as: Itis Ket, Itas Ket—a singing game beginning "I sent a letter to my love"—; Little Playmate Dance with Me (Both of these are in Children's Singing Games, Hofer, A. Flanagan and Company, Chicago—60 cents)

Refreshments

Ice cream and little cakes in shape of a heart

III. *Scenes from Southern Days*

All committees are made up of people who have called the South home. This could be given where there is a stage or where one end of the room

may be curtained off.

a. *The Cotton Felds*

Arrange cotton in stalks to look like growing cotton. If in cotton season some one could send for some from the fields. Place these stalks in cans or crocks or pails and put earth around them. As the curtain is drawn those in negro costume are singing *Old Black Joe* and picking up and down the rows.

b. *At Evening Time*

To the tune of *Yankee Doodle* a group dance in a circle hands joined.

1. Eight glide steps to the left—to the first two lines
2. Eight glide steps to the right to the next two lines
3. Swing partners, locking left elbows in first two lines of chorus
4. Swing partners locking right elbows to last two lines of chorus and gentlemen move on to the next place to the right taking a new partner. Repeat several times. All those not dancing clap hands in time and sing.

c. A storyteller gives one or more of the southern tales as: *Uncle Remus* stories. The school or the library always yield these.

d. Boys in southern costume standing by corn stalks as the curtain is drawn—each boy holds several—they are resting on the floor as though planted. As they sing *Down in the Cornfield* they pantomine binding the corn in bundles.

e. *The Swanee River* sung by all

f. *Tenting Tonight*—a group of soldiers around a campfire on the stage. (Fire built by extending an electric wire, bringing bulb to center, placing red cloth or paper over it with wire between—as wire cover for bulb—place branches on it, and you will have a good looking campfire.)

g. Some of the old negro spirituals sung by choir group, as: *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen—There's a Little Song a Rollin' in my Heart.*

h. *Dixie*—sung and used for a grand march, everyone taking part.

Gentlemen form line at one side of room—girls at opposite side—all facing same direction.

1st verse: March up to end of hall—march down center by twos—taking for your partner the one you meet at the end of the hall.

Chorus:

1st line: Gentleman marches around his lady, who stands still.

2nd line: Lady marches around gentleman, who stands still.

3rd line: Join both hands and glide six steps in line of direction.

4th line: Glide six steps back to place and the gentleman steps forward to next lady.

i. *Battle Hymn of the Republic* as a soldier of the north and south stand with the flag.

j. *Home Sweet Home.*

IV. *A Neighborhood Fair*

This can be held in one block in the neighborhood and the different booths can be on porches, in back yards or wherever seems best.

1. A lantern parade—everyone carries a lantern of some sort and visits the different places of interest. Money can be raised for the playground or other neighborhood needs at this time.

2. The Baby Show—Babies of the neighborhood are gathered and weighed—a prize given for the tiniest one and one for the heaviest one. Every baby that is well and weighs the normal amount gets a blue ribbon. Avoid selecting the prettiest. The reason for the baby show is perhaps to start a baby clinic in your neighborhood—at least to get every mother interested in knowing whether her babe is normal weight or not.

3. The Pet Show—Children bring their pets and exhibit them from the old red rooster to the Pekinese pup—parrots and canaries—they are all there. White rabbits and mice not forgotten. It is good for a child to have a pet and it is good to exhibit that pet. Each child is ready, if asked, to give name and history of pet. A blue ribbon is given every pet that looks as though it had a good master.

4. Exhibits of handicraft and sewing done by boys and girls or by any foreign groups in the neighborhood. Such a chance as this may give some boy or girl an opportunity to study art or engineering or to crystalize his thoughts about his future work in life.

5. Side Shows—Stunts which certain groups will enjoy doing as:

Strong Man
Fat Lady and Lean Lady
Dances
Fortune Telling

6. Exhibit of Garden Stuffs—Flowers, vegetables, fruit. Plans suggested for next year's garden.

7. The Grocery Counter—Many things the home will need done up in attractive packages. You pay a certain amount for an envelope with

a number in it. That number is the number of one of the packages which is yours.

8. Auction of the White Elephant—Many have been asked to bring something not wanted at home. These are done up in packages and auctioned off.

9. Folk Games and Dances—In an open space —perhaps the street running between the booths —have games and dances given by different school and church groups. The teachers will arrange this. Have some games impromptu where the older ones are invited to join.

10. *Athletics*

Races by the fathers
One legged race
Fat man's race
Races by the boys
Backward race
Wheelbarrow race
Relay by the girls

Walking or Running Relay—by couples. This can be played by two or more sets at the same time. Players are in couples in lines—the same number of couples in each line. On "Go" the first couple walk or run to the goal, clap their hands three times, return and touch the next couple and go to end of line. As soon as the next couple are touched they continue the game. The set finishing first wins.

Race by young men against older men

Travelers' Race—If planned beforehand each contestant brings hat, coat, gloves, red handkerchief,—all old things. They lay these at one end of room—or they have them in a suit case—and line up at other end. On "Go" they run—put on all the articles and return. One arriving first wins.

Race by the mothers

Ball and Stick Race—Players are in couples. Two sets or more—the first couple in each set have a wand and one ball between them. On "Go" each couple pushes the ball to goal and back without touching it with the hands or feet and gives the stick to the next and go to the end of line.

11. Refreshments Served in Several Booths
Homemade candy
Homemade cookies
Homemade ices

V. *A Country Circus*

Send for bulletin C. S. I. 425, Community Service Inc., 315 Fourth Ave., New York, New York, for full directions about

Advertising
Refreshments
Decorations
Side Shows
Costumes
Music
Entertainment

VI. *A Winter Party*

Held on the neighborhood playground.

1. *Singing*—for 15 minutes. Include in the songs two or three that you can march to and march as you sing. Have a good leader and all do as he does. He may clap his hands, he may run a few steps and march again. In this way we keep warm and have fun as well.

2. *Snow Target Contest*—Have a large painted target at one end of grounds or a large board covered with bright cloth. Each contestant has three snowballs made. Each time he hits the target he counts ten. Players are divided into two groups with captains and the one who scores the highest. Two or more of these games can be going at once.

3. *Snow Relay*—Use everyone in this who can run. Players come up in fours or eights and space. The first four in each line have three minutes to build a snow man twenty feet in front of their line. Then the game begins. The first one in each line runs around his line's snow man back to the next player whom he touches then goes to end of line—each player runs—and which line wins?

4. *The Sled Relay*—Everyone who has a sled brings it and gets a partner. Sleds with owners and partners line up—half the players on each side of the field. They represent two teams. On "Go" Number One on each side takes his partner around the circle. They pass each other and arrive at their starting places. Then the next couples go; this continues until one team has finished.

5. Everyone sings the chorus of *Jingle Bells*—All have brought one or more sleigh bells which they have on elastic around their ankles. These bells jingle in tune whenever they run or move about. All the children take partners and run in a big circle as everyone sings. The rest run in place keeping tune to the song.

The children may dance a real dance to *Jingle Bells*.

1. Run forward with partners to
Jingle bells, Jingle bells
Jingle all the way—

2. Face partners join both hands and slip around each other to

(*Continued on page 422*)

The Old Home Town and How it Grew

As Presented by the Children of Detroit

By

Fern Stevenson

In the Ninth Annual Pageant presented by the playground children on August twenty-third, Detroit joined the ranks of public spirited communities over all the nation which have presented in dramatic form the lore of their local history. The title was significant. Since it was presented by some 2,500 children, every endeavor was made to make it a real children's pageant, in which they could participate with joy and understanding. Apparently, the results gave equal inspiration and pride to the 20,000 spectators who thronged the bleachers and benches about the huge field.

The usual site was chosen for the presentation amid the natural beauty of Belle Isle with sky and water visible and large droopy old willow trees towering in the background. The spirits of these "three prime elements of civic beauty" were the first to be summoned forth by the Pageant Master from a rocky mountain which reared its peaks at one end of the field. And these same spirits gave unity to the theme of the whole by beautiful symbolical dancing between the historical episodes.

In the second part of the prologue, the pageant master proceeded to unlock huge stockade gates at the opposite end of the arena, through which he summoned all of the children of the Old Home Town, from the past and the present and the little figures representing the ideals of the future. When all had entered, the gates were closed and the real story began. It was colorfully depicted through dances, games, drills and songs. Some twenty-five adults, as principal characters, acted as silent heralds, who flashed to the audience the meaning or the period, which would follow in the action.

The first episode presented the early settlers. Thus read the program

"The past we will present in episodes,
The aborigines and pioneers come first;
French, English and Americans who came
And reared their children up in hardihood."

Of course the first striking figure who came winding down the mountain path was a native descendant of the ancient Chippewa tribe who wore the gorgeous white buckskin costume of an old chieftain. He proceeded with stately tread across the field to the music *Land of the Sky Blue Water,* and finally took his place seated upon one point of a large star platform in the center of the field. With a whoop, the young Indian Hunters came forth to play their ancient games and the beautiful maidens appeared in characteristic dance.

Cadillac next took his place beside the chieftain on the star, while French voyageurs portaged canoes through the wilderness and French Agriculturists danced the message of their early struggles.

Major Gladwin, famous in the historical annals of Detroit for the strategic manner in which he coped with the conspiracy of the famous old Indian Chief Pontiac, next descended to the star. Gay little English milkmaids danced and stately young soldiers in the colorful uniforms of the day performed a sword dance.

Last of all came Commodore Perry, hero of the Great Lakes, closing the episode with a dance of the early settlers.

During this time a construction group had erected before the stockade the houses of the settlement—a realistic Indian tepee, a log cabin, and a small frame house.

The second episode was the age of commerce. With the figure of Liberty dominating the scene, the first steamboat "Walk-in-the-Water" ploughed through the river and docked at Detroit. It was filled with decorous little passengers in hoop skirts and pantalettes. Its power was rated as two-man power.

Following the steamboat the first railroad train puffed into town. More little passengers and inhabitants to greet them and they all joined in a stately dance of Etiquette.

Little human poles ran forth stretching lines and cunning little figures in black, round as a ball or slim as a pole, hopped between the lines in a perky little dance of the dots and dashes of the Morse Code.

The next historical character of the period was the youngest Civil War veteran of the local G. A. R., who walked with great dignity and pride to the last point of the star, leaving the center to be filled by the American doughboy carrying the Flag. Meanwhile a church, a store, the first factory and a blacksmith shop, appeared in the settlement of houses. Under the dominance of the figure America, a skyscraper next reared over the stockade wall and a band of wee laborers pounded and sawed and hammered their way to a large modern factory. With a medley of

immigrants in native costume performing characteristic folk dances and an inspiring flag drill by 300 boys,—the episode closed.

This was followed by the period of Culture in which the Spirit of Culture with her attendant Arts paid obeisance to the Spirit of Detroit and formed a beautiful arch. Through this arch Artistic Recreation, Romance, Vision and Color, and Rhythm danced their way into the life of Detroit. The episode closed with these groups joined in an artistic and wonderfully blended dance of Harmony.

And again the program read—

"What more complete can any Pageant be,
What more conclusive any theme than this,
That all of life is told by children's love
And beauty told by nature's teachings.
Great cities built on thoughts like these,
Grow up in spite of Greed
Or even lust for power in men."

Under the direction of leaders the children were required to make their own costumes, and their historical value and exquisite color combination on the field brought forth delighted and spontaneous comment. The costumes were designed by Jessie Talmadge, Dorothy Jones and Marion Harrison.

The children were transported to Belle Isle by trucks lent by manufacturers of Detroit. Trucks were also generously provided to convey invalids in wheelchairs and on crutches to the scene of the festival.

The little people gave the performance in an unusually smooth and splendid manner, a tribute to their training and the organization. Because of unfortunate weather conditions, there was no field rehearsal of the whole.

About 500 children costumed as stars comprised the chorus. The songs during the interludes were one of the most pleasing and gratifying parts of the program. The chorus was under the direction of Louise Conklin and Harriet Dunlap.

The entire Pageant was in charge of members of the staff. The story was written by John Hinchman. The dances were arranged and taught to the leaders by Vivian Glauz. Hal Taylor and Charles King constructed the scenic properties and Fern Stevenson had charge of principal characters and dramatic action. Miss Lottie McDermott, Supervisor of Playgrounds and Community Centers, acted as General Chairman.

The Pageant was given under the auspices of the Department of Recreation, C. E. Brewer, Commissioner.

Fourteen Points in Good Sportsmanship

By

Daniel Chase

A Good Sport

Does

1. Plays fair at all times
2. Gives his opponent a square deal
3. Plays hard to the end
4. Keeps his head
5. Plays for the joy of playing and for the success of his team
6. Is a good team worker
7. Keeps training rules
8. Backs his team in every honest way

But—

9. Does his best in all school work
10. Obeys orders of coach or captain
11. Is respectful to officials. Accepts adverse decisions graciously. Expects the officials to enforce the rules

When He loses

12. Congratulates the winner. Gives his opponent full credit. Learns to correct his faults through his failures

When He wins

13. Is generous. Is modest. Is considerate

Does Not

1. Does not cheat
2. Does not take any technical advantage
3. Does not quit. Is not "yellow"
4. Does not lose his temper, even though wronged
5. Does not play for money or other reward
6. Does not play to the "grandstand"
7. Does not abuse his body
8. Does not bet. Does not think betting necessary to show loyalty.
9. Does not neglect his studies
10. Does not shirk
11. Never blames officials for defect. Does not "crab." Does not "kick." Does not complain

When he loses

12. Does not show his disappointment. Is not a "sorehead." Does not "alibi." Does not make excuses

When he wins

13. Does not boast. Does not crow. Does not "rub it in"

Warriors' Day on the Playground

One of the most interesting activities provided last summer in the play program promoted by the Welfare Department of the Carnegie Steel Company was Warrior's Day, when the boys were transformed into the warriors and heroes of "ye olden times" and King Arthur's knights lived again. The following suggestions for conducting Warrior's Day have been offered by E. J. Nezeski, director of the Homestead Playgrounds.

Organization—

Put up posters announcing Warrior's Day and suggesting very definitely the meaning of the day. Posters may show pictures of heroes in battles, of Robin Hood with his bow and arrow, of a warrior throwing a spear, of two lancers in combat, and other events which will arouse interest in the day.

The playground director should immediately secure some of his equipment and begin the demonstration of the use of the bow and arrow and shooting and dart throwing. When interest has been aroused the director is in a position to select the boys who will be kings and who will have charge of the tournament. After two definite kingdoms have been arranged and the boys know their king and the general plans, the day is set for the tournament. One of the older boys is selected as chief judge for all the competitions. He selects three assistants who do not take part in the tournament. A chief scorer and two assistants are necessary.

Marking off the Field

1. Two lines on each side of the field. The two kingdoms must stay in back of these lines. (A field 200 x 100 is absolutely necessary.)
2. Circle (a) the size of a boxing ring—24′
   (b) one third as large as the (a) circle—8′
3. Distance from target in bow and arrow—30 feet
   Distance from target in dart shooting— 30 feet
4. Distance in the knife and hatchet throw can be either seven and a half or five and one-half feet.

(The above dimensions are suggestive. Any arrangements can be made to fit the circumstances of the playground.)

Equipment and Description

1. Bow and arrow (two necessary)
2. Darts or feather pegs—10. (Made from cork, a horseshoe nail, and feather)
3. Hatchets—2
4. Knives—2
5. Spears—2
6. Wooden swords—10
7. Tilts—2. (Stick padded on one end. Sticks 5′ long).
8. Handkerchiefs (red and white)—50 or 60
9. Tug of war rope
10. Wagon wheels, or simple express wagons—4
11. Flag pole for the tree climb, or a real tree
12. Head gear, feathers, for the archers
13. Shields for the lancers, tin—2
    Masks for the face (wire netting). Gloves may be used to protect the hands from scars.
14. Targets for both arrows and darts; soft board for the hatchet and knife throw.
15. Two emblems, one upon which a knight is pictured standing in armor and sword in hand and a writing under the knight's picture—CHIVALRY. The other is an emblem with the white cross of the crusaders. The writing under this may be—LEADERS.

The Theme of Warriors' Day

King Arthur invites King Edward to come to his kingdom and enter in a tournament. If King Arthur and his brave knights lose in the combat, Arthur will give a gorgeous feast in honor of the court of King Edward. If King Edward loses, he must prepare a feast for King Arthur and his knights. Then this poem is read by a boy who is of a serious nature and can speak distinctly every word.

True Knighthood

But I was first of all the kings who drew
The Knighthood errant of this realm and all
The realms together under me, their head,
In that fair order of my table Round,
A glorious company, the flower of men,
To serve as models, for the mighty world
And be the fair beginning of a time.
I made them lay their hands in mine and swear
To reverence the king, as if he were
Their conscience, and their conscience as their king,
To break the heathen and uphold the Christ,
To ride abroad redressing human wrongs,
To speak no slander, no, nor listen to it,
Not only to keep down the base in man,
But teach high thoughts and amiable words
And courtliness, and the desire of fame,
And love of truth and all that makes a man.

Alfred Tennyson

Tournament Procedure

1. March of the Knights
   Kings march to their places back of the lines
2. Bow and arrow contest (4 Knights from each kingdom)
   The Archers stand in front of target and each shoots two arrows
3. Dart shooting or feather peg contest—same distance as arrow shooting
4. Spear throw—for distance. Three Knights from each kingdom. Each man throws spear twice.
5. Knife and hatchet throw—2 Knights from each kingdom. Three trials for each Knight.
6. Duels. Four lancers from each kingdom. Papers should be pinned on breasts of warriors to see the points made by lancers. When paper is pierced anywhere above the belt of the warrior, he is considered as killed. Also, if a sword is knocked out of his hands.
7. *Combat.* Three teams from each kingdom. Two boys for a team—one the rider and the other is the horse. They have the tilts and with them must knock off his enemy while horses are running at each other in full speed.
8. *Indian War.* The two kingdoms enter this game with an equal number of knights. One side have their handkerchiefs under belt; the other, loosely tied around neck. The space between can be from 25 to 50 feet. The game starts by a signal from the referee who simply says "Go." They come forth to meet each other on the field and try to take each others' handkerchiefs without losing their own. When the referee signals to return, they must all return to their kingdom's line. The handkerchiefs are known as scalps. After ten minutes of this game the scorer counts up the scalps and awards winners.
9. *Climbing Rope* Six men from each kingdom. Ropes hang from apparatus.
10. *Rope Pull* Two kingdoms enter.
11. *Chariot Race* Two wagon wheels, or simply two express wagons. Two chariots from each kingdom. Run off the same as a race. Or it may be a team of eight boys clasping each other.

Scoring Events

Bow and Arrow	15	points
Feather Peg	10	"
Hatchet Throw	5	"
Knife Throw	5	"
Spear	5	"
Lancing (swords)	15	"
Combat (horse and rider)	15	"
Indian War	20	"
Rope Pull	25	"
Climbing Rope	15	"
Chariot Race	10	"
Climbing Pole	5	"

When the warriors compete, they must win over half of the points to get all of the points in that event. In case of tie, split the points. For example, if there should be a tie in the bow and arrow contest, split the points, such as 7½ to each. Otherwise, the one having the majority of points wins.

A very good thing is to keep the feature warriors in same events. Then in scoring have a place to keep records of the feature warriors.

Cheering on the part of the knights is a fine sport, but during a battle or combat every warrior must be honorable and keep silent.

Prizes

This "Warrior's Day" is for clean sport, and the goal in view is not a prize but to bring out in the boy ideals which are noble and sincere.

If we could only have more big, free playgrounds for men and women, as well as for children, around our cities and our smaller communities! It would be expensive to keep them up, but so are public libraries and schools expensive. The benefits derived from these last two institutions outweigh the bills for their maintenance, in popular estimation. The time may come when we shall prefer to be taxed more for public athletic fields and less for hospitals and asylums. Health is the one great thing in life, and it cannot be ours without proper exercise, such as some sport so delightfully gives. I wish women would realize more the benefits of sport, if only for their vanity's sake. The woman who makes a hobby of some sport never need experiment with obesity cures. The athletic figure seems to me the most beautiful in the world.

MOLLA BJURSTEDT MALLORY

From the *San Francisco Examiner*, July 5, 1923

Playground Exhibits

The program carried on during the summer on the playgrounds of Fort Worth, Texas, included three days of juvenile exhibits contributed by children under eighteen years of age.

First Day

An exhibition of articles made solely by children, such as dolls, dolls' clothes, furniture, miniature doll houses, boats, pushmobiles, bird houses, radios, lanterns, improvised fire engines, horse carts, bead work, musical instruments, fish nets, kites, crocheting, weaving, pottery, electrical and mechanical toys, modelling, carving and knitting.

Second Day

Races—bicycle, roller skate, pushmobile.

Third Day

Rodeo and pet show—parade of pets, trick riding and stunts.

For the exhibit of articles made by the children, the following certification blank was required:

"I hereby certify that the ..... as entered in the Playground Juvenile Exhibit was made without assistance by ..... who was ..... years of age on last birthday. To be a part of the exhibits of the ..... Playground

.....
Exhibitor.

.....
Guardian.

.....

Section A — Wagons, carts, pushmobiles, scooters

Section B — Dolls, doll clothes, doll furniture, doll houses

Section C — Electrical: radio sets, bell circuits, light systems

Section D — Mechanical: toys or mechanical devices of any sort

Section E — Woodwork: furniture, bird houses, pet houses

Section F — Articles of clothing, embroidery, bead work, fancy work of any sort

Section G — Basketry, pottery, weaving or any plastic art

Section H — Metal Work: All articles wrought of metal

Section I — Boats: homemade boats, store boats rigged by exhibitor.

In Atlantic City's Woodworking Shop

For three summers, through the courtesy of the Atlantic City Board of Education, the carpentry shop of the Boys' Vocational School has been placed at the disposal of the city in order that the boys of the community might have the opportunity to make things under the supervision of an experienced teacher. Here the boys construct kites, games and toys which they enjoy using after they are made. Through this activity the boy acquires the habit of being constructive instead of destructive; traits which make for good citizenship are formed instead of the bad tendency developed through disorganized and unsupervised play; lessons of cooperation and team work are stressed and the boy gains in self confidence and ability through his actual accomplishments.

The shop is open to every boy in every playground of the city. Each playground is assigned half a day a week, and at the specified time the boys from that playground come with their teachers to the shop. The motto of the shop is a highly satisfactory one for the children who attend—"A project each day and you take it away." In other words, if the project is one day for a kite and the task is finished that same day, then the boy takes it home with him.

Since the shop is for the boys' benefit they themselves decide on the project they most desire, and naturally toys and things to play with make the greatest appeal. The shop instructor is the final judge as to whether the projects are simple enough to be completed within the day. Some of the articles made during the past summer include sail boats, box kites, two-stick and fancy kites, wooden tennis bats, marble games on the same principle as ring toss games, tit, tat, toe boards, checker boards, bait boxes, weather vanes and similar articles. A boy bringing his own wood is permitted to make larger articles such as surf boards, stools, picture frames, bread boards and taborets.

The total attendance for the past summer during the seven shop weeks was 1,152 boys. Approximately $140 was spent for materials to carry on the work, or an average of 12¢ per boy. The sales value of the various articles made amounted to approximately $586.

Some of the Me
Board of D

Myron T. Herrick

A few of the Delegates at the 1922 Rec
Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, Joseph [illegible]ee, Mrs
Braucher. Standing: J. H. McCurdy, R
Kirby, Walter M[illegible], F. S.

Carl E. Milliken

Ellen Scripps

Members of the
of Directors

the 22 Recreation Congress. Seated:
oseph ee, Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, H. S.
I. McCurdy, Robert Garrett, Gustavus T.
ter Mat, F. S. Titsworth.

Austin E. Griffiths

Samuel Mather

Eugene W. Lewis

Wilmington Cleans House

Wilmington, Delaware, recently completed a *Clean Up and Paint Up* campaign, which has been one of the most successful community enterprises carried though in this city in recent years.

The movement enlisted the help of business clubs, social agencies and neighborhood associations, and was supported enthusiastically by the press. The Mayor, the president of the City Council and the heads of municipal departments were active workers. The police enlisted, and, during the first week of the campaign, placed circulars in all the 20,000 homes of the city. The campaign proclamation of the Mayor was read to all classes in the schools, and each child was given a bulletin of specific suggestions showing how he could help. The city firemen made inspections; Boy Scouts aided, and the churches took part.

Besides the school children, the police, firemen and other city officials, about 600 active workers were recruited from neighborhood associations and groups in different sections of the city, who helped to clean and beautify the city and encourage the efforts of their neighbors.

The first official move was a meeting of representative citizens called by the Mayor in his office, at which committees were appointed on Publicity, Districting, Finance, Safety, Fire Prevention, Public Health, Commerce and Industry.

The plan of activities, prepared by Charles F. Ernst, Executive Secretary of Community Service who acted as secretary for the movement, provided for sub-committees which reached into all parts of the city. Howard M. Ward, president of the City Council, in charge of the Districting and Contests Committee, arranged that the city should be divided into six districts corresponding to districts already mapped out by the Board of Health. In each of these districts was appointed a captain who had as lieutenants the city health officer of the district and the president of the neighborhood association. There were two sergeants for each block, two corporals for each street, and each householder was regarded as a private in the "army."

How Results Were Judged

A prize consisting of playground apparatus was announced for the district showing the cleanest and brightest aspect when visited by judges after the first week's activities were finished. The award was based on five points:

1. Freedom from dead leaves and rubbish; clean walks
2. No needed repairs on steps, walks, fences, gates, or blinds
3. General orderliness; neat arrangement of rubbish cans, covers, and similar household effects
4. Evidences of brightening up with fresh paint or whitewash
5. Gardens, well trimmed trees.

In awarding the prizes, the judges announced the plan of selecting five yards at random in each section, and estimating the percentage appearance of each section from them and from the streets and thoroughfares.

The plan included a call at each house to explain the contest, and to invite cooperation.

Wilmington newspapers devoted 60 columns of space to the campaign.

The street car company donated advertising space in its cars, for cards stating specifically what should be done.

Leading motion picture houses showed slides without cost to the committee.

The Hessler Bill Posting Company donated twenty-three sign locations, three of which were illuminated.

"Clean Up and Paint Up" campaign banners were carried generally on the trucks of business houses.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, through its Wilmington representatives, supplied 40,000 handbills, describing the benefits of the campaign. Children carried home circulars from the schools.

An essay contest on *What Can I Do to Keep Wilmington Clean?* and *How I Helped to Clean Up Wilmington* was announced. There was a special essay contest for high school pupils on the subject, *Can the City Department Keep Wilmington Clean?*

Women's Clubs Were Active

The Women's Clubs Committee started to solicit twenty-one prizes from the merchants, but so great was the enthusiasm that more than forty prizes, ranging from roller skates to a radio receiving set, were obtained.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company offered two prizes of $5 each, one for the best campaign essay, and one for the best poster by a child.

The Fire Department made 3,000 inspections for fire hazards.

Pierre S. du Pont used his squad of motor trucks and men in carting 1,378½ five-ton truck loads of rubbish from lots and open spaces. Several hundred additional tons were removed by the city department.

Polish-speaking and Italian-speaking police officers were detailed to inform foreign residents of the plan of the campaign.

To Make Results Permanent

After lots were cleaned up, the Board of Health, in newspaper advertisements, notified all citizens that anyone found guilty of dumping rubbish on them would be prosecuted, and this statement was backed up in the press, in public declarations by the Mayor and the Chief of Police.

To make certain that some permanent agency would assist the city authorities in keeping Wilmington clean, a committee of prominent men and women was appointed, which recommended "that a permanent committee of citizens, representing the various districts of the city, with the Mayor as chairman ex-officio, be appointed to cooperate with the Board of Health in the enforcement of laws and regulations, and to assist in securing such additional laws as will assist the Board of Health in making its work more effective."

If we bear in mind that more habits are formed in play than in any other activity, that more character, either good or bad crops out and develops when the child is having a good time than at any other time, why then leisure time begins to be important even from an adult's point of view.

"Probably a decided majority of delinquent children become such through a misuse of leisure or play time; through the wrong kind of associates and playmates and the wrong kind of good time.

"And in the case of 'teen-age' children if you can keep the 'after-supper-before-bed-time' period filled with wholesome interests and harmless 'good times' the struggle is three-fourths won."

Honorable W. S. Criswell,
Judge of the Juvenile Court,
Jacksonville, Florida

In a University Town

Two hundred and seven men from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where the University of North Carolina is located, gave a banquet to two hundred and seven boys of the town. The program of speeches by grown-ups and boys, music by the school orchestra and singing was highly successful. The entire day was given over to the boys, and preceding the banquet their grown-up friends took them to a ball game. After the feast a special movie was shown.

Athletic Badge Tests

The Men's Town Club of Chapel Hill, through its Boys' Work Committee of which Professor Harold D. Meyer is chairman, determined to make an annual affair of the Athletic Badge Test Contest. The men of the Club sponsor and finance the project, using the tests of the Playground and Recreation Association of America. "The results of the contest," writes Mr. Meyers, "are many and varied. An unusual interest is developing in field events and in general keeping fit."

A Field Day

The elementary grades of the Chapel Hill school held their annual field day on May 11. Exhibitions of field events by the grades made up the program which was as follows:

First Grade—Dramatization of Mother Goose Stories

Second Grade—Formal Calisthenics for Little Folks

Third Grade—The Rules of the Health Game Visually Shown

Fourth Grade—Formal Marching Drills

Fifth Grade—May Pole Dance and Two Folk Dances

Sixth Grade—How to Prevent Disease

Seventh Grade—Formal Calisthenics for Older Boys and Girls

Field Day Events

Mental Games

Second vs. Third—Birds Fly	Five points
Fourth vs. Fifth—Do This, Do That	Five points
Six vs. Seventh—I Say Stoop	Five points

General Games

Second vs. Third—Run Rabbit Run	Five points

Fourth vs. Fifth—Head and Tail Tag	Five points
Six vs. Seventh—Dodge Ball	

Three Relay Games

Second vs. Third—Simple Relay	Five points
Fourth vs. Fifth—Cross Relay	Five points
Sixth vs. Seventh—Over and Under Ball Relay	Five points

Three Running Games

Jumping the Brook for each group—Five points as before

Three Fun Games

Second vs. Third—Sack Race	Five points
Fourth vs. Fifth—Potato Race	Five points
Six vs. Seventh—Dressing Race	Five points

The Parent-Teacher Association offered prizes in pictures for the classes winning and for the class receiving the largest number of points. The school orchestra furnished the music and refreshments were served. Hundreds of people attended, and a gala day was made of the occassion.

Requisitioning Playgrounds in Oklahoma

The action of the Regional Planning Commission of Tulsa, Oklahoma, in requiring that a certain portion of additions platted in the future shall be set aside for public use as a park or playground before the plans will be accepted by the Commission is most encouraging in indicating the importance attached to the provision of play space by city planning boards.

The resolutions adopted by the Commission at its last meeting are as follows:

"WHEREAS, this regional planning commission has authority to plan and supervise the development of the territory outside the city limits of the city of Tulsa for a distance of three miles and is responsible for the method in which such territory is laid out and opened to the public, and to that end has been given authority to consider, investigate and approve or reject any proposed addition or subdivision in such territory, and,

"WHEREAS, it has heretofore been customary for the owners of property in such territory to plat the same without reference to any general plan for the development of such territory and nearly all plats heretofore filed have failed to make provision for the needs of such additions or subdivisions in the way of parks and playgrounds, with the result that a vast territory both inside and outside the city of Tulsa has been platted and sold without provision for any public spaces, public grounds, public parks, beauty spots or children's playgrounds, and,

"WHEREAS, this commission deems such places as necessary for the proper development of any addition or subdivision in the territory over which it has jurisdiction;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that it is the sense of this commission that such public places be provided in all additions or subdivisions to be platted and submitted to this commission for its approval, and this commission requests that all such plats make proper and suitable provision for parks and playgrounds, the size of the same to be in proportion to the size of the tract platted and in conformity to the anticipated density of population of such addition or subdivision; that such parks or beauty spots may be given such names as the donor of such property may desire, provided the same is not a duplicate of the name of some other existing park, playground or public place, and provided the name is indicated on the plat of such property.

"It is the further sense of this commission that often some portion of a subdivision or addition might be deemed waste land as far as using the same for home sites, but would be exceptionally suitable as a park or playground and this commission does not expect, nor desire the donor in dedicating a tract or tracts for parks or playgrounds to include the best portion of his property, neither does this commission expect nor desire that he dedicate property wholly unfit or unsuitable for such purposes."

"The aim of society—and therefore the aim of the teaching of the school—is complete living. The school needs to know the whole child. A full understanding of the child is necessary in order to prepare him for society, yet—although visiting teachers are employed here and there—the schools by and large are 'wofully ignorant of what goes on in the homes and back alleys of the community.'"

From The Survey of June 15, 1923.

The Central Recreation Council of Allentown Pa.

The Recreation Commissions Best Ally

By Richard J. Schmoyer
Superintendent of Recreation
Allentown, Pa.

The Recreation Council of Allentown, which is a clearing house for all the recreational activities promoted in the city, is composed of three representatives from each of the various civic, social, religious and fraternal organizations in the city. There are about a hundred and thirty-five people on the Council representing every section and ward of the city. These members, under the leadership of a president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer selected by the Council at its annual meeting, come together three times a year. In the spring they meet to plan summer activities; in the summer, fall activities such as the opening of community centers and the organization of soccer and football leagues. In the late fall the Council concerns itself with the organization of basketball leagues, dramatic groups, bowling leagues and song festivals.

The Council has no iron clad constitution but functions as the occasion and the season of the year warrant. As has been suggested, activities are organized on a seasonal basis. In the spring of the year, baseball, tennis, volley ball, swimming, boating, canoeing, track and hiking committees are appointed. The report of each committee is never made in a formal way at a following meeting but finds expression in the enthusiasm and support of the community for that particular sport. The Supervisor of Recreation must be the dynamo which will keep the committees going. He must utilize them as so many people who will make those particular sports their concern and will see that they are successes.

The Council has proved invaluable to the Recreation Commission, the legal body appointed by the mayor. We find it exceedingly helpful to lay the plans of the Commission before the Council when we desire to put a new piece of work into effect. The Council will rush in where the duly authorized Recreation Commission must remain in the background. The Council has one hundred thirty-five thoroughly interested members who, when they want a certain thing, are sure to get it. Just at present, it is advocating some much needed improvements on our playgrounds. The Council knows full well that there is nothing quite so effective to the office holder, who is also generally the watchdog of the treasury, as the presence of a given number of interested tax payers at a city Council meeting demanding improvements.

Forty-eight teams of amateur baseball players were kept intact last year through the work of the Council. This year it was responsible for a hundred mile mass relay run with two hundred runners from Allentown to New York, and fifty business and professional men furnishing transportation and acting as hosts to the boys. This project was possible because the Central Recreation Council approved it and put its moral and financial force back of it.

A Friendly Social Club

Four years ago last April, sixteen people met in Memorial Hall, Detroit, and organized the Friendly Social Club under the auspices of the Detroit Recreation Department. What this club has meant to the people whose homes are not in Detroit or who are without the social life and companionship which the normal human being craves, cannot be estimated. Most of the members of the club are living temporarily in the city without family or friends, working all day and returning at night to their rooms utterly tired out, with no place to go and no opportunity to entertain their acquaintances and form friendships. Housekeepers, maids, office girls, clerks and men who labor with their hands are among the members. They manage the club themselves, have a constitution, pay an entrance fee of $1.00 with monthly dues of 50¢, and carry out a regular program of social activities.

A cozy club room is provided with magazines, cards, a victrola and similar equipment. Here the members may entertain their friends instead of meeting them in kitchens or on street corners.

"Perhaps you may ask," writes Miss Viola Armstrong, who is in charge of the club, "whether they ever take advantage of the relationships which the club promotes. May I say in answer to this that all acquaintances are made in the proper way. Even at the dances we see that all are introduced with the help of a reception committee, and so far as I know the only unfortunate

results of these meetings—and we keep an accurate track of all—have been a number of happy marriages!"

The Detroit Friendly Social Club is meeting a real need. Such centers of friendliness are needed today in every city of America.

A Folk Dance Evening

The final evening of a drama institute held in Seattle, Washington, was devoted exclusively to recreation. A folk dance specialist directed the program and introduced some of the old English dances such as *Selinger's Round* and *Pop Goes the Weasel.* All of the institute students were keenly interested, and plans to have folk dance evenings regularly in various neighborhood centers of the city were started. This feature was rather an innovation for the drama institute, which was arranged by Dorothea S. Coe, local organizer, for the specific purpose of meeting the immediate needs of amateur players and coaches.

Seattle has a large percentage of people actively interested in community drama. The enrollment of the institute included representatives of leading churches, schools, clubs and industrial groups. Among the subjects of specific interest to these groups were the problems of securing desired lighting effects with little or no special equipment; the choice of suitable incidental music and the accomplishment of suitable costumes and make-up for the various popular characters. Accordingly this last phase of the institute course covered demonstrations of the significance and relation of colors; ways and means of treating inexpensive and common materials to secure robes of kingly elegance and splendor.

Through the efforts of the various coaches and directors trained in this institute Seattle experienced an extraordinary activity in dramatic production.

Since their first appearance 38 successful performances have been given, mostly for demonstration purposes. These have been before 26 different groups or organizations, reaching approximately 5000 people.

One-act plays have been used exclusively, and the standard that only the best was worth the effort has been maintained. Of these, *The Neighbors* by Zona Gale, and *Joint Owners in Spain* by Alice Brown, have perhaps been the most popular.

Inquiries are frequent as to the availability of this group for winter demonstrations. "While we hope to continue this phase of the drama work," says Dorothea S. Coe, local dramatic organizer for Community Service, "we are more eager to turn our time and attention to following up the work of the past year with the organization and supervision of dramatic groups for the respective neighborhoods before whom we have already demonstrated.

"We believe there is no activity for trained or untrained groups which so develops the inner resources of the individual and provides opportunity for self-expression to all ages, permitting each to make his own contribution to the community life in his own way, in any greater degree than supervised community drama. It produces a common bond, and encourages closer cooperation and teamwork to a surprising degree. It furnishes an outlet for youthful energies in a legitimate leisure-time activity at little or no expense, and makes use of the services of those whose talents may be along mechanical lines as well as the artistic. It is democratic, recreational, educational, and, fortunately, popular."

A Messsage to the Youth of America from Chauncey M. Depew who admits that he is eighty-eight years young.

"The older we grow the more we realize that life is worth the living. We think too little of the fun there is in it. We are too parsimonious of laughter. We do not appreciate as we ought the man or the woman who can make us forget while we are amused. We cannot help the past, and that man is a fool who lives in it. Today is a better day than yesterday.

"The secrets of happiness and longevity, in my judgment, are to cherish and cultivate cheerful, hopeful and buoyant spirits. If you haven't them, create them. Enjoy things as they are. The raggedest person I ever saw was a Turkish peasant standing in the field, clothed in bits of old carpet. He was laughing hilariously at our well clothed party. The combination of color and humor made him a thing of beauty, if not a joy forever.

"Let us never lose our faith in human nature, no matter how often we are deceived. Do not let deception destroy confidence in the real, honest goodness, generosity, humanity and friendship that exist in the world. They are overwhelmingly in the majority."

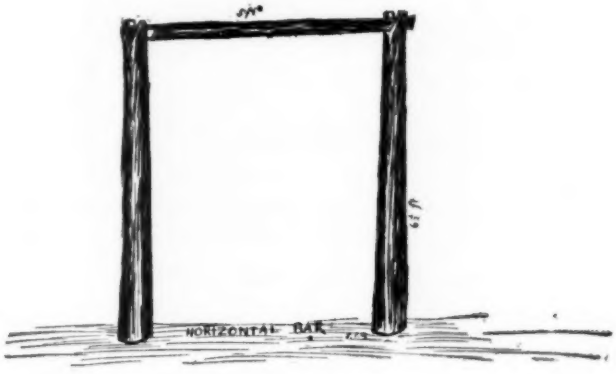
Home Made Play Apparatus

By John F. Smith
Professor of Rural Social Science, Berea College

The material used in constructing this apparatus should, if possible, consist of black locust or cedar for posts and hickory, oak, ash or sassafras. The thing to do, however, is to use any kind of durable wood at hand. Nearly all the pieces described may easily be made from fresh material cut from the woodlot. It should be cut between November and March while the bark is tight and should season for three or four months before it is erected. The apparatus may be placed on the lawn at home, on the school playground or on some spot set aside for play purposes.

The holes in which posts are set should be from 30 inches to 3 feet deep, and all posts should be thoroughly tamped after they have been set. This will prevent them from becoming loose from constant usage. All joints, knots and braces should be carefully made and fitted to insure stability and safety. Each piece should be thoroughly tested before children are allowed to use it.

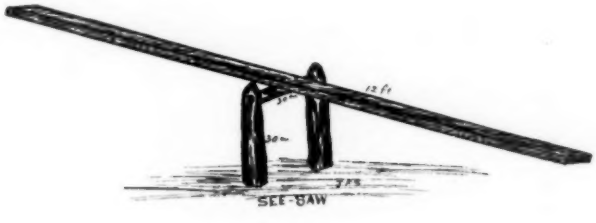
The following instructions will enable any man or boy who can use ordinary farm tools to make the pieces or direct others while the work is under way.



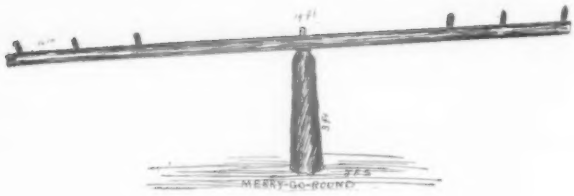
Directions for Making Apparatus

1. **Horizontal Bar.** Set firmly in the ground two posts, 8 to 9 feet long and 7 to 9 inches in diameter at the large end. The bar is trimmed to 2 ½ inches in diameter except at the ends, where it is driven to fit in the notches at the top of the holes. A large nail driven through each end will make it secure. The bar may be of any desirable height.

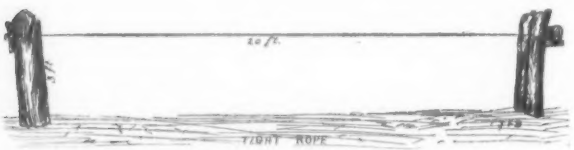
2. **Chinning Bar.** Posts should stand 7 feet above the ground. Beginning at a point 5 feet from the ground bore a series of inch holes, 3 inches apart, 4 inches deep, sloping slightly downward. Make two hickory pegs 9 inches long to fit in the holes. The bar is 2½ inches in diameter and is notched at the ends to fit over the pegs.



3. **See-Saw.** Set two posts 30 inches above the ground 30 inches apart. Do not tamp until the other work is completed. Bore a 2 inch hole through the top of each post. On each end of a piece of hickory 42 inches long and 5 inches in diameter, cut a 6 inch shaft small enough to turn easily in the 2 inch hole. Fasten this with boards or pegs to a substantial piece of timber 2½" x 10" x 12' or 14' long. Set shaft in position and tamp the posts.

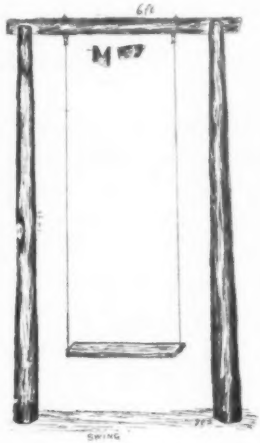


4. **Merry-Go-Round.** Set a post 3 feet above the ground. Bore a 2 inch hole in the top 10 inches deep. Make a hickory peg 16 inches long and drive it firmly in the hole. In the middle of a piece of timber 2½" x 10" x 12' or 14' long bore a 2 inch hole. Put three 1 inch pegs protruding 3 inches in each end 15 inches apart. Set the rider in position on the post.



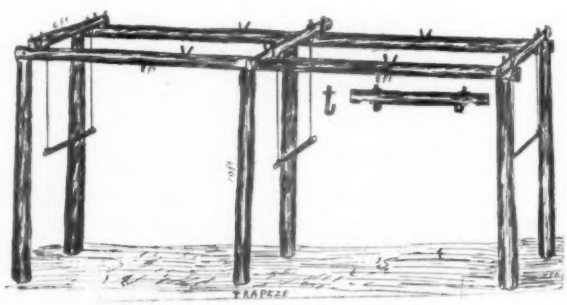
5. **Tight Rope.** Set one eight inch post 3 feet above the ground, tamping it firmly. Bore a 2 inch hole near the top. Twenty feet away set two other posts, one foot apart. Secure a substantial piece of hickory about 2 feet long and flatten it slightly at each end. Take a half-inch cable or heavy wire and fasten one end securely to a peg. Draw the other end through the hole at the top of the post and fasten it to the piece of hickory. Set this behind the two posts and tighten by driving wedges between the piece and the posts.

6. **Ladder for Hand-Climbing.** Set two posts 10 feet above the ground and 16 feet apart. In each of these set 2 inch pegs as shown in the cut. Across top of each post secure a bar 30 inches long with a notch or peg in each end. Make a ladder 17 feet long of substantial poles or sawed timbers. The rungs are 14 inches long between the sides and are made of hickory or white oak trimmed smooth. Notch the ladder at each end or put in pegs to insure stability and lift into position.



7. **Slanting Ladder.** This is constructed in the same way as the ladder for hand-climbing, except that the posts at the right are only 5 feet high, giving the slant to the ladder.

8. **Swing.** Set two posts securely 14 feet above the ground and 5 feet apart. In a substantial crossbar 6 feet long put rings or hooks 30 inches apart and fasten on the top of posts as shown in the cut. Attach the ropes securely to insure safety. It may be of any desired length.

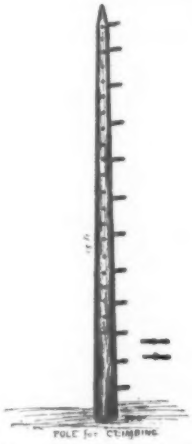


9. **Trapeze.** This has the same framework as the swing (see #8). The bar is of hickory, 3 feet long and 1½ inches in diameter. It is notched at each end and may be tied at any convenient height.

10. **Rope for Climbing.** The same framework is used as in the case of the trapeze and the swing, with the exception that the side posts are 20 feet high instead of 14. The rope, which is an inch or more in diameter, is firmly knotted at top.

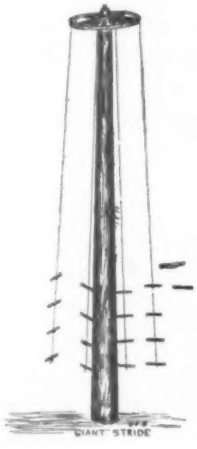
11. **Greased Pole.** The greased pole is trimmed very smooth and is thoroughly sand papered. It should be set firmly in a deep hole and stand 18 or 20 feet above the ground.

12. **Pole for Hand-Climbing.** Secure a substantial pole 21 feet long. Bore one set of 2-inch holes 18 inches apart and set pegs protruding 8 inches. Bore another series of 1¼-inch holes 10 inches apart and 6 inches deep,



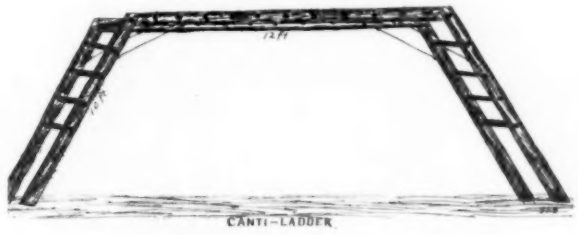
as shown in the cut. If desired, these may be bored in two parallel lines about 5 inches apart so that a line connecting them will zigzag across the face of the pole. Make two hickory pegs that will fit loosely into the holes. The permanent pegs are not to be used unless the climber becomes exhausted before he has climbed to the top and back.

13. **Giant Stride.** On a substantial pole 21 feet long fasten a discarded thimble from a wagon pole. Set on this a discarded wagon wheel with tire and attach four ¾-inch ropes 18 feet long



to the rim of the wheel at points equally distant, setting the posts firmly in position. Trim 16 handles 10 inches long, bore a ¾-inch hole in the middle of each, draw each rope through four of these and tie knots in the ropes to hold handles about 15 inches apart.

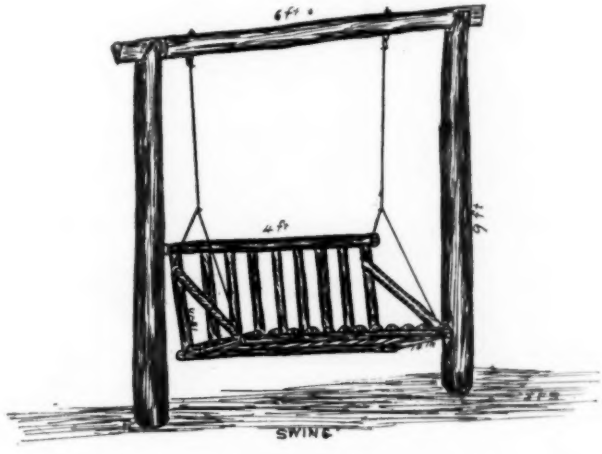
14. **Canti-Ladder for Hand-Climbing.** These are made in much the same way as the slanting ladder, with this exception: the end lad-



ders are flared at the bottom to 30 inches in width so as to insure stability when standing. The top rungs are 14 inches long between the side pieces. The ladders are securely united by shoulder joints at an angle of about 120 degrees and are reinforced by wire, as shown in the cut, or by braces.

15. **Series of Trapeze.** This may be made any desired length and height. The cut shows clearly the method of construction. Great care must be shown in joining pieces together to insure stability and safety.

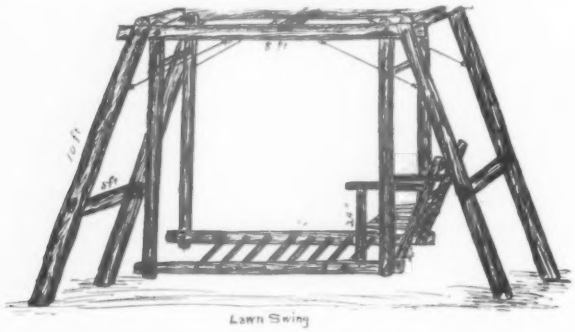
16. **Lawn Swing.** The dimensions shown in the cut may be varied according to the wishes



of the workmen. The seat is made of sassafras poles from 2 to 3 inches in diameter. It drops to within 10 or 12 inches of the ground. A heavy wire or chains may be employed.

17. **Double Lawn Swing.** Use substantial poles and fasten joints securely with bolts or large nails. The upright poles are 5 feet apart at the bottom and 3½ feet at the top.

The ladder at the bottom is 3 feet wide. Rungs may be nailed on the top of the piece instead of being set in holes. The seats are set inside the ladder, the joints being made very secure with bolts or nails. Care must be



taken to see that the arms of the seats do not rub the upright pieces by which the whole bottom is suspended.

18. **Lawn Chair or Seat for Porch Swing.** This is made of sassafras poles, 2 to 3 inches in diameter. All joints are mortised. Bore two 1-inch holes and chisel out the wood, or bore one hole and trim end to fit this. Secure the bolts by driving a #8 nail in each side.

19. **Ox-Pole Swing.** Secure a straight hickory or white oak pole about 5 inches in diameter at the large end and cut to the desired length which is determined by the height of the limb from which it is to be suspended. Split the large end as shown in the cut. Notch each piece and place the seat in position. Secure the seat with nails. Tie the swing securely to a limb with a strong rope or chain, leaving the rope end long enough to insure freedom of movement.

20. **Details.** Great care should be exercised in making all joints as accurately as possible.

Making the Playground Function in the Community

Quiet Games

Some quiet games which may be played in city streets are Ball bouncing and tossing games, Caroms, Checkers, Crokinole, Jackstones, Marbles, Parchesi, Pass Object Relays.

Many of the games mentioned as possible for use in streets and narrow spaces may be played in large yards and vacant lots. In addition there may be played such games as Scrub, Fungo, Rush Indoor or Playground Baseball, Kick Ball, Town Ball, and Football.

In outlying districts where there are places to hide, the following games may be advantageously used:—Police and Robbers, Relievo, Run Sheep Run, White Men and Indians.

In addition to the quiet games suggested for city streets, Mumble-the-Peg may be played wherever there is a patch of sod. It is sometimes played on soft pine boards, but when this is done there is more danger of the knife rebounding and cutting the players.

Indoor Home Activities

Among the games which may be played at home are such table games as Checkers, Caroms, Crokinole, Parchesi and Ping Pong. Miscellaneous equipment games are Ring Toss, Faba Gaba, Checker-in-the-box, Observation, Identification, Scouting for Words, and Up Jenkins.

Play leaders should encourage children in such home activities as canning, gardening, health habits, and the care and training of pets.

Methods of Making Home Activities Possible

It helps very greatly in popularizing home games to have the games played frequently so that they will become well-known.

In order to give one or two different activities a vogue in the neighborhood, each season the leader may arrange a tournament between teams representing various neighborhoods or streets. Among these contests and tournaments are Jackstones, Mumble-the-Peg, Marbles, Tops, Kite Flying, and Boat making contests; exhibits of collections and amateur photography; drawings and paintings; Hobby Day; Pet Day; and game tournaments including Prisoners' Base, Team Dodge Ball, Long Ball, Punch Ball and Kick Ball.

Tournaments of this kind increase the importance of these minor teams games in the eyes of the boys and girls, and make them the fashion. Only one or two tournaments should be arranged each season in order to popularize some one definite activity.

Hallowe'en Parade

The playground may give an outlet for the traditional prankish spirit of Hallowe'en by holding a Costume Parade. Awards may be for the most novel costume, the most ridiculous and the most beautiful. When there is a place for a bonfire the paraders may gather about it for stories and stunts.

April Fool may be celebrated in a similar way.

The General Exhibition

A general exhibition of playground activities will consist of games, athletics, gymnastics, folk dances and dramatic games. Stunt and feature numbers may be added when rehearsals for them do not take much of the play leader's time away from the regular daily activities.

An exhibit of things which have been made on the playground may be a feature—kites, lanterns, clay modelling, sand court dolls, paper dolls, boats, basketry and bird houses. If gardening has been an activity the garden products should by all means be displayed, if it is a seasonable time.

Costumes for the folk dances add color. But if the requirements of costumes will prevent some children from taking part in the dances, a good effect is gained by a uniform costume for girls, of white middies and white or dark skirts, or white middies and bloomers, with a bow, cap or sash of a chosen color; for boys, of white blouse and trousers with or without bright paper caps or sashes.

The play leader may choose to present the program with a dramatic setting. The tendency is for physical education departments of schools and colleges to dramatize their exhibitions. Instead of the program of miscellaneous numbers, they choose a theme for the day and weave

each number in as a part of the story. If it is a Greek festival, athletic events, games and dances are of Grecian character. If it is a Robin Hood or old English May Day, there are athletic events, archery, wrestling bouts, Morris dances, Maypole dances and old English games. A fairy or mythological theme, any scene of general rejoicing such as a christening or wedding scene, the restoration of a lost prince or princess, the triumph of good over evil, gives an opportunity for a festival in which peasant folk and court entertainers perform whatever feats the physical education and play departments care to present. It is desirable that the story used be developed in the story hours and dramatic play periods.

Folk and Group Dancing

A program of folk and group dances and songs makes an excellent opportunity to develop an exhibition program into a community event. Following an exhibition by playground children of dances which they have learned on the playground, the audience may be drawn into general group dancing and singing.

In a community made up of foreign born citizens such a program may be a link between them and the native born. If the play leader enlists their interest and assistance in using their native dances a basis for real friendship and ties is formed.

The play leader may induce the foreign born to teach her some of their dances so that she, in turn can teach the dances to their children, for it frequently is the case that the children cannot dance the dances of their parents. She may utilize the aid of foreign born mothers in cutting and designing folk costumes which add vividness to the exhibition and have an educational value.

When the play leader begins teaching children of the foreign born their parents' dances, the children at once attain an added respect for and interest in the customs of their fathers. This spirit can be also utilized in fostering patriotism for the new country.

The everyday playground dancing frequently includes in addition to folk and national dances, others with the spirit of folk dances, which playground and gymnasium instructors themselves have composed for their classes. Some of these have excellent physical and social worth and can well be used in such an exhibition; but play leaders should not call dances "folk dances" unless they are genuine.

Folk songs as well as dances can be used on the program in two ways, as special numbers, and also as singing by the entire audience under the direction of a song leader.

For the general group dancing, the leader should be careful to choose only those group dances that are so simple of step and figure that everyone can quickly "catch on" without much teaching or promoting.*

Before the audience is asked to dance a group dance, the leader should have a small number go through the figures on the platform. The members of this group should then be distributed among the audience to act as leaders of sets.

Sets for Virginia Reel and similar dances must be small enough for each leader to direct easily.

A Playground Carnival or Fair

On some municipal playgrounds sale of articles is not permitted. Other playgrounds raise a small sum each season by sales of articles which are made on the playground or contributed, using the money for playground purposes or as a gift to some charitable organization.

A carnival or fair affords an excellent setting for this kind of sale. Tables, booths and stalls should be arranged for the sale of articles. Vendors of wares and all in charge of sales should be in fancy costumes, some with trays of colored trinkets and bonbons, suspended from their necks, others with bunches of gay balloons bobbing overhead, may walk through the crowds offering their wares.

If the carnival is held on the playground, a costumed "barker" may be in charge of each piece of playground apparatus. Each "barker" should have an assistant, also in costume, to see that the crowd observes the safety rules in using the apparatus. Miscellaneous attractions may be arranged such as juggling, clownish stunts, wrestling, drills. The folk dancing program may be a feature of the carnival. If a band is available, it should by all means be utilized. A "Parade of Nations" is a good spectacular feature. When evening comes, strings of colored Chinese lanterns add much to the spirit of the occasion.

National Holidays

Playgrounds should celebrate in some way each national holiday. When it is made the occasion

*(See pamphlet No. 179, "Folk dancing as Social Recreation for Adults," by Elizabeth Burchenal, and bibliography describing group and folk dancing, issued by the Playground and Recreation Association of America, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City)

of Community Festivals some part of the program should have patriotic or historic significance. One of the best ways of portraying this is through dramatization and symbolism.

A feature of Flag Day program may be an annual celebration of the arrival to the age of citizenship by young people of the community. The Old Romans considered it important to make the attainment of citizenship an event in the lives of youth. The ceremony of "Toga Virilis" was an impressive one. American communities can make American citizenship something to anticipate on the part of playground children. In Washington, D. C., Community Service arranged a New Citizens' Ceremony, for which former Secretary Lane wrote the pledge taken by the young citizens.

The Community Festival

In this type of activity, the program is planned and carried out by the representatives of various groups in the neighborhood of the playground.

In earlier times when festivals were held there were rarely any spectators. Everybody participated, even the lords and ladies of the castle; for the festival is distinctly of and for the people. In this form it still continues in some rural communities and stands out as a spontaneous custom typifying real community spirit and effort.

In cities and in communities where the festival has died out, the playground movement in the last decade has done much to revive the custom. The common impulse is still there, although quiescent, and the playground leader can stimulate it. It is possible, however, that a new play leader on a small children's playground may feel that she has neither the acquaintances nor the time necessary to conduct a festival of this kind. But she can, at least, make a start which in a few years will develop into a program arranged through members of the community. For example, on Exhibition Day and other special programs she may include a few activities for adults, or she may arrange a Parents' Day and by securing their interest on such occasions make contacts for the broader plan of community festival.

To organize a festival through members of the community it is first necessary to interest influential members of the various groups. The next step is to call a general meeting. At this meeting, the idea can be broached and, if agreed to, working committees appointed.

Committee on Publicity. Publicity is an important part of the arrangements. On the committee there should be some of the following persons; editors of local papers, principals of schools, managers of moving pictures, librarians, priests and ministers.

If there are funds for printed or mimeographed notices they may be furnished librarians for slipping into books given out, to business houses for insertion in packages and to commercial and industrial firms to be put into pay envelopes. Managers of motion picture theatres will often be willing to flash announcements on the screens. Slides are easily prepared of gelatins for the purpose.

The committee may hold a poster contest for children and exhibit in downtown windows the best posters announcing the festival.

Committee on Activities. The play leader should be a member of the committee in charge of the program of activities. This committee should appoint for the day itself leaders of games, a leader of singing, a storyteller, and a fortune teller. The leader of the children's playground can organize some of the older boys and girls to assist in leading games.

In choosing a space large enough for the crowd it may be necessary to give the festival outside the boundaries of the playground. A setting of grass and shade is particularly desirable.

After going over the space and deciding where each game is to be played the device of placing a stake bearing the name of the game printed on cardboard in the ground at the place where it is to be played will get the crowd distributed at once.

A Horseshoe Pitching Tournament, races, field and track events should be arranged for all ages.

Where space and equipment permit baseball, basket ball, volley ball, captain ball, athletic and track events with adult young men or women in charge should be included among the activities.

There must, however, be plenty of good active games of informal character which are easily taught to adults. A good game to start off with is *Forty Ways of Getting There,* played as a contest with awards for the most humorous and most unique *way, Black Tom* or *Pom-Pom Pull Away* will get everyone playing without waiting to choose sides. *Black and White* requires dividing only into two sides and can include the entire group. *Hindoo Tag, Ankle Tag* and *Japanese Tag, Handkerchief Snatch, Slap Jack, Three Deep, Co-ed Tag* and especially *Drop the Handkerchief* have proved popular with grown-ups.

For those who may not wish to enter into games requiring much running, relay games involving speed in passing objects such as balls, Indian clubs, bean bags, apples, oranges, ears of corn or any convenient objects provide the fun of competition between rival teams, while an umbrella, an elopement race or a suitcase race in couples, a nail driving contest for women and trials of physical skill for men are mirth provoking.

These informal group games may be conducted in either of two ways. (1) The players are divided into groups, each assigned to a definite space with the play leader who directs the game planned for that space. At the sound of a whistle each group progresses to another space and a new leader for a different game. (2) The various groups and leaders play the same game at the same time and at the sound of the whistle the leader changes the game, the group remaining where it is. In either case the play periods are from three to ten minutes in length. The first method must be used when games requiring a certain kind of court and apparatus are included.

Singing may be included among the activities in one of the game periods in place of a game. But the mood of the gathering should be carefully watched in this connection, and care should be exercised in choosing songs that are really familiar.

In quiet, but not inconspicuous corners, a storyteller in costume, and two leaders of quiet games, guessing games and pencil and paper games will entertain children weary from strenuous play. A fortune teller in costume is always popular with young people. A gypsy camp scene for the fortune teller makes a picturesque feature. It may be desirable to introduce "Cho-Cho," the "Health Fairy" and the "Picture Man" on festival day.

A committee of older children and adults may serve in relays to amuse babies so that mothers may take part in the activities. This problem is simplified if the festival is on or near a children's playground where there are the sand courts, baby swings and slides. On a picnic ground a shady place should be reserved for babies and, if possible, provision made for their care.

If the program extends into the early evening the people attending may be asked to bring box and basket luncheons or the committee may arrange to sell sandwiches, ice cream and other refreshments for picnic lunches. Chinese lanterns and flags give a festive appearance to the grounds for the early evening play hour.

In each community, the committee will have some special feature to add to the program. A neighborly note is struck when a public welcome to new residents in the neighborhood is made on Community Day.

The Community Festival may be an instrument in the process of knitting the community together through common participation.

References

Publications of Community Service

Rural and Small Community Recreation ... 50¢
What Can We Do ..... 25¢
Good Times at Small Cost ..... 10¢
Twelve Good Games ..... 10¢

Publications of the extension divisions of Pennsylvania State College, University of Wisconsin, and other State Universities.

A League for the Hard of Hearing

In addition to the Friendly Social Club, the Detroit Recreation Department is maintaining a league for the hard of hearing, the purposes of which are:

1. To promote and aid the interests of the hard of hearing
2. To promote wide-spread interest in the study of lip reading
3. To create a center for the hard of hearing where social intercourse and mutual inspiration may be encouraged and provided.

The annual dues of active and associate members are $2.00. A constitution controls the administration of the group, which mantains club rooms. Monthly letters sent to members outline the activities for the month.

In addition to the purely social activities, lip reading is taught through practice and classes, advice and information on hearing devices and deafness cures are furnished, employment service is in operation and hand work is taught.

Through the social program are provided such activities as Bunco parties, mass meetings for men, dancing parties, game parties and outdoor picnics.

Banquet Table Stunts

By
George W. Braden

Very often such luncheon clubs as Kiwanis Rotary, Lions, and others, enjoy having a few table stunts which will add enthusiasm and interest to their regular round table meetings. The following suggestions are offered for the benefit of these clubs and for use at special dinners in connection with community centers, churches, playgrounds, and fraternal bodies.

1. *Valentines.* Supply each table with 24 x 24 square pieces of white paper. On signal the paper is passed around the table, each person folding once and tearing out a piece with the object of making a most acceptable "paper-tear valentine." A judge determines the winning table.

2. *Subject Writing.* Each table is supplied with a piece of blank paper and a pencil. On signal each person must add ten words to a statement on the subject designated. Subjects suggested are: Women's Rights, Labor Problems, The Present Administration, and similar topics.

3. *Pictures.* Supply each person at the various tables with a blank piece of paper and a pencil. On signal each person must draw a picture of the Chairman of the meeting or some other person designated. Papers are then collected and a decision is made regarding the best picture.

4. *Advertisements.* Distribute twenty or twenty-five pictures of prominent advertisements. In cutting out advertisements see that only trade-marks or general statements appear. Each person writes down what he thinks the advertisement is. The papers are then collected and announcement is made of the person having largest number of correct answers.

5. *Poetry.* Each table is given opportunity to make an original limerick on subjects designated. The limericks are read aloud and a prize given for the best one produced.

6. *Musical Medley.* Provide each person with pencil and paper. Have some one at the piano play the following songs or any others desired:

Sidewalks of New York
Daisy Bell
Sweet Rosie O'Grady
The Bowery
Little Annie Rooney
In the Good Old Summer Time
Yip-I-Addy-I-Ay
Sweet Genevieve
In the Gloaming
Silver Threads among the Gold
Home, Sweet Home
Good-bye, My Lover, Good-bye
Tavern in the Town
Sailing

Each person writes down the name of every piece as it is played. Lists are then checked off and an announcement is made of the winner.

7. *Questions and Answers.* Give each person a penny announcing that questions will be asked, the answers to which will be found on the penny. The leader asks the following questions, the guests writing the answers. A prize is awarded for the largest number of correct answers:

Question	*Answer*
1. A Messenger	One Cent
2. Ancient mode of punishment	Stripes
3. Means of inflicting it	Lash
4. Piece of armor	Shield
5. Devoted young man	Bow
6. South American fruit	Date
7. Place to worship	Temple
8. Portion of a hill	Brow
9. Three weapons	Arrows
10. First American settler	Indian
11. Emblem of victory	Wreath
12. Emblem of royalty	Crown
13. One way of expressing matrimony	United
14. Part of a river	Mouth
15. Implements of writing	Quills

9. *Oyster cracker relay.* There should be equal numbers of players at each table participating. Every table should be supplied with a bowl of crackers. On the command to start the player nearest to bowl takes ten crackers from the bowl, passing them to number two, then to number three and so on around the table, returning crackers to bowl. The same number of crackers should be used as there are guests around the table. The leader of the first table finishing should raise his right hand and shout, "finished."

How Communities Make Men

In the course of a series of lectures at Union Seminary, New York City, Dr. Joseph K. Hart defined the word "community" as essentially meaning communion, a common interest. Formerly a community was a group of people bound together by blood relationship and later a group of people that had real communion because of a common territory, common interest and common vocation. This union was a deep spiritual relationship. In the development of our civilization, the word "community" has lost practically all of its significance. We sometimes apply it to neighborhoods, but actually there are very few real neighborhoods left.

Dr. Hart feels there are possibilities of bringing back the primitive meaning of community.

Dr. Hart traced the development of community life from the time when the people lived in small villages in well integrated groups where there was a common bond in territory, in interest and in vocation and brought the people in a community together because they shared in all aspects of life. Later on we began to get specialization and certain people were set aside as teachers, as preachers.

As this second stage developed, cities grew up and within these cities these different professional interests developed into institutions and people began to think of themselves not as members of a community but as members of an institution. Hence we find the community breaking up into fragments. We get our fellowship not in the community but in fragments of the community. That is, we are politicians, we are teachers, we are business men, we are preachers, but we are not citizens. We no longer have a community, we have a group of institutions. We have a mass of fragments.

The third stage was the period of the Industrial Revolution. About 150 years ago a steam engine was invented and immediately there began a drift toward cities. Since that time we have built our lives around engines. It was found that engines could be more efficient when grouped together in masses. We have become efficient units of production but we have lost our souls. Cities are terribly productive but deadly to personality. We have made of ourselves attachés of machines. The city has use for mechanical units, but no use for our personalities.

Although this process has been going on for 150 years, it has been greatly expedited in the last 30 years by the perfection of the automatic machine and by the wide-spread use of the automobile. The deep desire in the hearts of people for communal life has urged them to the city in the hope of finding it, and so the result has been that our rural communities have been sterilized and our city life has become mechanized.

To escape from this situation back to social and communal relationship is one of the biggest problems of America today.

Dr. Hart said that the deepest feeling of a human soul is for this community existence, that is, real communion with our fellows. We formerly had this in the primitive community. In the development of cities the communion has been lost. The development of the city has really been incidental, because the people came not to develop the city, but to find satisfaction for their souls. Instead of finding communion in the city, they have found only a wilderness.

Upon arriving in the city, instead of finding satisfaction we have found that this deep hunger for communal existence has been played upon and despised by the automatic machine.

Possibilities for Hope

Here and there in our industrial system some men are realizing the effect of the automatic machine. People are now admitting the absence of community life and they are beginning to desire a return to the time when this will be possible.

Men cannot think or wish a new world. This new world must be based upon an economic foundation. We must bend and organize the forces to realize the new world which we want. We know that the forces which have been at work have been bigger than we are. We are now learning to control these forces. Dr. Hart feels we are on the verge of a new era and the most hopeful thing about it is that we are learning to remake our economic foundation.

Engineers are giving us a vision of the

resources which we have. The new idea which all engineers are agreeing upon is that it will be possible within the next few years to have power stations established in different parts of the country which will be central points for supplying power for all purposes of heat, light and power. There are two viewpoints taken by the engineers as to the result that will follow the establishing of these power stations:

1. It will mean an even greater centralization of life.

2. The second is that if we have the courage and the vision and will work to control the forces, it will mean a decentralization of life.

This will mean moving away from mechanical centers back toward an intelligent humane, and human type of community. It will mean that small industries will have a better chance. It will mean that education will be diffused and will be closer to the life of the people. It will mean that religion, rather than being apart, will became an actual part of the life of the people. It will mean that all of the vocations which have been crystallized in the institutions will again be decentralized so that each institution will share in the religious, educational, and political life of the community. When that time comes we shall all participate in the work, in the worship, in the play, in the education and in the common activities of community life. At that time our community life will be understood and will be intelligent.

A community is the actual soil of human personality. The world's problem is the making of communities that will provide the soils for the production of rich, varied, interesting types of personalities.

No matter how much we think to the contrary, a human being is dependent upon his environment. Sometimes we have an occasional person who rises above it and we all know of a person here and there who has come up in spite of it, but in general we are products of it.

It is, therefore, very fundamental that the environment be right. It is also important that we understand and appreciate the conditions and forces that have produced us. One of the dangers is that a person having been produced by certain conditions and certain forces, assumes that those conditions and forces are right. Very few people will criticise the schools and universities through which they have come. We must divorce ourselves from conditions that have produced us and analyze what there is of good and what there is of bad in those conditions.

Relationship of Community Life to Education

Our whole problem, then, is one of developing personality. In the primitive stage of life, the individual child was the product of the life he lived. His life was formed by his sharing effectively the varied emotions of his group, including its fears and joys. He learned to work by working, not by reading books. He lived in an atmosphere of religion because all the people in the group were religious. He saw and participated in the play life of the group.

He accepted the life of the community as his responsibility. For example, the young Greek, usually upon arriving at a certain age, took an oath dedicating himself to the caring of his share of the responsibilities. After taking his oath, he felt "here is my community, its friends and its enemies are mine."

The difficulty with this complete surrender to the life of the group was that it was too much for the individual's personality. The assuming of this responsibility was so large that it subordinated his personality entirely to the group. We do not want this type of man-making today. This process tended to produce a standardized product. There are some people today who want this suppressing and repressing standardized process of the primitive group, but fortunately the number of people wanting this is decreasing. The advocation of the Lusk laws, the desire for dictated histories, are evidences of the desire on the part of some for the standardized process.

As the institution of the school has developed with the growth of our civilization, we have assumed that the process of educating the child is taken over entirely by the school, and so the responsibility for education has been passed on to the teacher and assumed that no further attention was necessary. However, education won't be taken over. Children keep right on being educated whether they are in school or out. We cannot assume that the child starts his education at nine o'clock in the morning and quits being educated at four thirty in the afternoon. He is influenced

either for good or for bad every time he comes in contact with life, and so the process of education in the individual child goes on before school and in the afternoon and in the evening and in the summer time and in vacation. As a matter of fact, the school is only an incident in the education of children in modern cities.

An hour in school is less effective than an hour in life. The absorbing activity of play may give more to the educational development of the child than he gets in school. Boys and girls in New York City are being made into men and women less by the schools than they are by the streets. We are educated by the things we do, by the things that stick, and not by the fund of information that is poured into us in a formal way at certain set times. The informal, spontaneous activities of the playground frequently are far more educative for life than the formalities of the school group.

Wilkes-Barre Gets the Playground Spirit

(*Continued from page 380*)

and oiled, tuned and polished them for the big pushmobile derby.

The grand climax of the whole season came on August twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth in the form of the playground circus. Nothing was spared to make this event the great success which it turned out to be. There were side shows with freaks and barkers and in the main tent was a three-ringed performance which in a minature way rivalled even the Barnum and Bailey show in the elaborateness of its program. All of Wilkes-Barre turned out for two nights to see the big show.

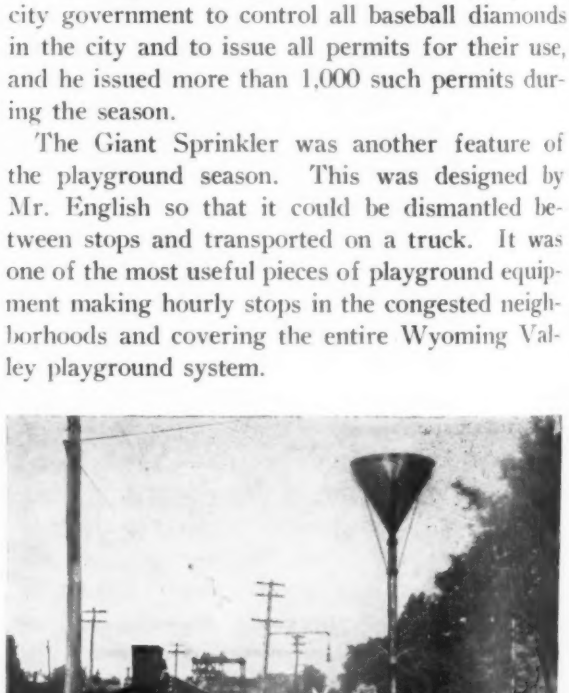
The playground athletic side of the Wilkes-Barre program is a revelation in itself. The athletic organization included nineteen leagues starting with boys under 85 pounds and running up to and including the men in the twilight leagues. There were 206 teams of boys and men and 33 teams of girls, a total of 259 teams. In the baseball leagues there were 66 teams playing 258 games, in the twilight volley ball leagues were 16 teams playing 66 games, in the quoit leagues there were 125 teams playing 446 games and the 33 girls volley ball teams played 96 games. In six weeks a total of 866 games were played with a total of 1692 registered players.

Allowing an hour for each game with continuous playing of 12 hours per day it would take 72 days or 12 weeks to play this schedule, one game at a time. If the players stood shoulder to shoulder they would cover a distance of six blocks, equal to the distance around the public square and all the way to the river.

Because of organization in advance and careful preparation, Wilkes-Barre has never had such a successful twilight baseball season. Fortunately it was possible to secure the services of John Gallagher, formerly a professional league umpire, who organized a staff of trained and uniformed umpires for all of the league games. Mr. Gallagher himself was retained by the local organization and acted as the Judge Landis of the leagues. His was the final decision on all protests. During the first half of the season only ten protests were submitted. This was due to the well-organized staff of trained umpires who knew the game and were respected by the players.

Mr. English was given full authority by the city government to control all baseball diamonds in the city and to issue all permits for their use, and he issued more than 1,000 such permits during the season.

The Giant Sprinkler was another feature of the playground season. This was designed by Mr. English so that it could be dismantled between stops and transported on a truck. It was one of the most useful pieces of playground equipment making hourly stops in the congested neighborhoods and covering the entire Wyoming Valley playground system.



During the summer the Playground and Recreation Association of Wyoming Valley, Pa., employs this giant sprinkler to the delight of the youngsters.

Is Bull Fighting Losing its Appeal in Mexico?

By S. W. Rider

In part, better sports are taking the place of bull fighting in Mexico, but bull fighting has a very strong hold on the people and there has been a revival of this form of amusement in recent years. Progress is being made in certain directions to counteract this tendency through increasing attention to real athletics. Mr. Williamson, General Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, states that he has been informed that it is difficult in Chihuahua to get up a lively interest in bull fighting because the Mexican men and boys have taken up baseball and are playing with enthusiasm. Baseball, football, tennis and golf are all growing in public favor among Mexicans and foreigners. There is a steady growth in the development of healthy sports in Mexico and that naturally is having a good effect upon the people. I wish that some of our good friends in the United States would interest themselves in work of this kind for Mexico. I know the people well and I am sure that such work would pay good dividends as it does in our own country.

J. C. Delgadillo writes on this subject:

Bull fighting is not a sport, but a show, a diversion. It has great appeal for the masses because of the elements of valor, skill, plastic beauty and color. These things, added to music, and our sunshine make of bull fighting as splendid and barbarous a show as that of the Roman arena; and, you know, we are not so far removed from such primitive ages as not to have in us a morbid taste for bloody spectacles (as bull fighting and prize fighting)—and people crowd the bull rings to get drunk on sunshine and music, enthusiasm and . . . the sight of blood.

There is a great deal of writing and opposition against bull fighting but to very little avail in Mexico City and central Mexico; in the northern states bull fighting has never had as great a hold on the people as in other regions. Right now, when there is a revival of bull fighting in central Mexico, we do not have more than six or eight shows or "corridas" in a year. Amateur and mediocre bull fighters do not draw a crowd, it is necessary to bring one of the "aces" like Gaona for instance, to fill the bull ring, and I am told by the promoters, that except on such big occasions bull fighting is not a good business proposition.

What effect has the promotion of baseball and other sports and athletic activities on bull fighting? It is more effective than any other form of opposition. It will take—long years: but sports, baseball, particularly, will finally kill bull fighting in northern Mexico.

Here are some interesting things in regard to baseball in our City. Last year the writer organized a city amateur baseball league, patronized by "El Porvenir" our leading newspaper. There were 16 teams in the league, with 15 players in each team making a total of 240 players. The schedule called for 8 games one Sunday and 16 games—every other Sunday, morning and evening. We took account of the number of spectators attending the games and found an average of 4,500 at the games of our league. As outside of our league there were about twelve or fourteen other teams of amateurs and six professional teams also playing every Sunday, I estimate that between June and September, there were played in the city, every Sunday, about twenty to twenty-five games on an average, attended by about 8,000 spectators. My figures are very conservative.

This year there are two amateur leagues with 26 teams, and about 15 or 20 more playing independently. Last year during the baseball season no bull fighting was a success, financially, except one big "corrida" with two of the most famous "matadores."

There are thousands in Monterrey who would rather play or see a game than go to a bull fight.

Before closing let me tell you some news, of interest to you, I am sure. The Rotary Club of this city, at the suggestion of Dr. Eusebio Guajardo of the Y. M. C. A. board is to present the city with a small model playground.

A. C. Sawhill association Cristians de Jóvenes Chehuahua, writes: I can only speak of the northern part of Mexico as I do not believe what I say is true to as large an extent in the south, but I am glad to say that during the past year baseball has practically taken the place of bull fighting. The game has become very popular and I don't believe that there have been a half dozen bull fights during the past year.

Basket ball is taking hold and is extremely popular during the fall and winter months, while at the present boxing is a very popular sport.

The Question Box

TELEGRAM FROM A SOUTHERN CITY:—School architect here planning new public school building says modern high schools make no provision for playground. Can you mail us some data disproving assertion and showing need of school playgrounds? Thanks.

ANSWER:—In October, 1922, the United States Commissioner of Education sent a questionnaire to superintendents of schools in cities of 30,000 or more in reference to the question of school playgrounds. One of the questions was, "Is the Board of Education providing playgrounds for all new school buildings?" Out of 164 replies to this question, 143 reported that the School Board was providing playgrounds for all new school buildings.

Another question was, "What is the standard playground in square feet per pupil?" There was a great variety in the answers, and many cities reported that they had no standard. The amounts reported varied from 10 square feet per pupil in one city to 300 square feet per pupil in two other cities. The following are the standards fixed by more than one city. Three reported 30 sq. ft., two reported 50 sq. feet, two reported 60 sq. ft., two reported 75 sq. ft.; seven reported 100 sq. ft., 5 reported 200, two reported 300 sq. ft., 35 cities reported that the playgrounds at each school were large enough to accomodate all the children at one time.

Another question was, "Does each High School have an athletic field?" 76 cities out of 175 reporting indicated that each High School possessed an athletic field. A great many of the other cities reported a central field for several High Schools or that athletic fields were rented for the use of the pupils.

The following paragraphs from a report issued by the American City Bureau covering a survey of school buildings and school grounds made by a National Committee for Chamber of Commerce cooperation with the public schools should be of interest to you. In the introduction to this report, Professor George D. Strayer, of Columbia University, made the following statements:

> "Playgrounds are not available in connection with many of the older buildings, and unfortunately even in the case of many modern buildings sufficient ground has not been secured at the time of the erection of the building. If we believe that it will pay to provide for the physical well-being of boys and girls, the attention of the American people should be focused upon the necessity for more space in connection with school buildings. It is distressing to note that one-half of all of the buildings covered by this inquiry have less than thirty-four square feet of playground space per child. Students of physical education have long maintained that adequate play space requires from one hundred to two hundred square feet per pupil. It is clear that in many cities children are now housed in buildings in which there is less space on the playground than is supplied in the class rooms in which they are taught.

In the body of the report there are tables showing the number of square feet of playground space per capita for schools in American cities, and it is shown that for cities from thirty to one hundred thousand population school playgrounds provide an average of 59 square feet per pupil. The following statements from the report may be of value:

> "It is the generally accepted standard that 100 square feet of space per child is an absolute minimum. . . . This situation (the general lack of adequate school playground space) is but partly accounted for by the fact that it is in comparatively recent years that the value of playgrounds has been realized. The sites of many of the old school buildings are on parts of blocks in congested districts, and many of these sites are covered by the building itself. In spite of this, many of the newer buildings are erected on the old sites, or upon sites duplicating the old defects.
>
> "These facts of limited playground space present one of the serious problems confronting those who are interested in the welfare of American school children. School authorities are attempting to relieve conditions by various makeshifts, one of the most common of which is to allow groups of children to use the playground space at different times throughout the day. Each playground should be large enough to include a section equipped with slides, swings and other apparatus for the smaller children, and larger sections

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equipped for tennis and the various recreational and athletic activities of large groups of pupils of all ages. Whatever the cost, adequate playground space should be provided for those school buildings already erected in congested districts. Public sentiment must become so strong that it will be considered a breach of trust for school authorities to erect a school building on a site that will not afford adequate playground space for all the pupils.

On the playground the physical well-being of the child is developed and here he learns through properly conducted games and in athletic activities how to play the game of life squarely in competition with his fellows."

A number of states and cities have determined by law the minimum acreage on which public schools can be erected. With the increasing importance of play and physical education in the school curriculum as indicated by the fact that 32 states have passed legislation making play and physical education compulsory, it is very evident that adequate play space is of greater importance now than ever before.

At the Conferences

On July 29 and 30, seventy-five playground workers from nineteen cities in New England gathered at Fitchburg, Massachusetts, for a two day conference held under the auspices of the summer continuation field service of the Playground and Recreation Association of America. The meetings were held in the field house of Fitchburg's million dollar field, and here were discussed problems of administration, play activities, athletics, handicraft and the importance of the interplay of community agencies in the recreation program. Among the speakers were Mr. Carl Schrader and Miss Louise French of the Massachusetts State Department of Physical Education; Mr. Henry Higgins of the Massachusetts State Parole Board; Mr. Thomas Ferguson of Tufts College; Dr. Francis McMurray of Fitchburg, and others. There were, in addition to the formal presentations, an informal discussion, and a demonstration of games and handicraft.

Of the conference, one of the playground supervisors wrote, "We certainly were fortunate in being among those present at the conference in Fitchburg. Do have more of these conferences! The feeling of enthusiasm, the knowledge of what others have done, the reasons why some playgrounds prosper with little and others fail with much, the need for *real* playground work, was brought out so emphatically that I felt as though the train moved too slowly to reach home quickly enough for me to tell the others who were not so fortunate as I, some of the things I had heard."

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Book Reviews

THE CHILDREN'S PARTY BOOK, by Marion Jane Parker. Price 50¢

Grown-ups—mothers particularly—who are often at their wits' end for new ideas for a children's party, will find this boklet very helpful. It not only contains suggestions for various kinds of parties but it also gives receipts, prepared by Helen Harrington Downing, for all the "goodies" which children love at parties. The illustrations in the book are charming. Copies may be secured from Marion Jane Parker, 1020 South Karlov Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

FUN, FOLK AND FAIRY TALES. National Association of Junior Chautauquas. Published by Fleming H. Revell Co., New York City. Price—$1.25

Under this intriguing title the National Association of Junior Chautauquas offers a compilation of some of the stories told by Junior Chautauqua leaders, upon which the boys and girls for whom they were written have set their approval. "And that," says Edmund Vance Cooke in his interesting introduction, "is the highest authority of all."

HOUSEHOLD MECHANICS, by Earl E. Bedell. Published by the Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. Price—$.55

For the boy who is of a mechanical turn of mind this series of thirty-two job sets will be of keen interest. Suggestions are given for many kinds of construction and repair work on articles in the home, such as door bells and faucets.

APPARATUS WORK FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.—A course of graded Instruction, by Leopold F. Zwart. Published by John J. McVey, 1229 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Price—$2.25

This book presents a series of exercises in the form of lessons with four lessons upon each piece of gymnastic apparatus for three groups of pupils. There are exercise for both boys and girls. The apparatus involved includes horizontal, parallel and stall bars, horses, rings, ladders, giant strides, climbing poles, bucks and mats.

CITIZENSHIP INSTRUCTION. BUREAU OF NATURALIZATION United States Department of Labor. Government Printing Office. Price—5 cents

This careful analysis of the problems confronting those concerned with citizenship instruction in Hackensack, New Jersey, with its description of the plans found most successful and the methods in use, will be very suggestive to all who are meeting similar problems.

SPAULDING'S ATHLETIC LIBRARY. Official Football Guide. American Sports Publishing Company, 45 Rose Street, New York City. $.25

The changes in rules as recommended by the Committee on Rules are outlined in this guide which has been edited by Walter Camp. In addition to the official rules which appear in separately bound, detachable form, there are collegiate and scholastic reviews and a record section which will delight every football "fan."

TENNIS TACTICS, by Raymond D. Little. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price—$1.00

A very practical guide is this book written out of a long experience in tennis playing. Emphasis is laid on the principles of generalship and strategy which enter into expert playing, though the beginner will find in the book much valuable instruction in strokes and positions.

HOW TO PLAY TENNIS, by James Burns. The Macmillan Company, New York City.

Another guide for tennis players is to be found in this book in which are described in detail positions and strokes, serves and back hand playing, and all the fine points which make of tennis so fascinating a game.

THE CANOE—ITS SELECTION, CARE AND USE, by Robert E. Pinkerton. The Macmillan Company, New York City. Price—$1.00

The purpose of this booklet, as pointed out by the author, is to make the use of the canoe more universal, to show its possibilities and to point out its abuses. Mr. Pinkerton has succeeded admirably, not only in giving detailed information about types of canoes, strokes, lake and river travel, the portage and equipment, but in painting an alluring picture of the outdoor life to which the canoe invites the lover of nature.

REAL GAMES FOR REAL KIDS—as told in the Sneezy Letters, by Dr. Emmett D. Angell. A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago, Illinois. Price $1.75

The old demand for something new is answered in this book by the "Play Man" and the directions for these novel games and stunts, all of which are illustrated, are given in breezy letters from Chip, one of the gang, to Sneezy, his chum. Here is a book of games in which every normal boy and girl will delight.

RECREATION SUGGESTIONS. An Outline of Plans for Recreational Activities by Rev. Robert P. Anderson. Published by United Society of Christian Endeavor, Boston, Massachusetts. Price—$.20

"There may be a good deal of religion in play and play may be so used as to lead to still more religion," says Mr. Anderson in his introduction. "Not enough has been done to utilize the play instinct in the service of the church."

In Mr. Anderson's suggested booklet he has outlined some of the things which may be done through the Social Committee of the Christian Endeavor and other church organizations to utilize the play instinct. Athletics in the church basement, active games, outdoor and indoor play are among the activities suggested. But the Society, Mr. Anderson points out, cannot limit itself to the church. There are the educational program for foreign born, the use of the church ground as a community playground, hiking clubs, community singing classes of all kinds, play festivals and similar events in all of which community interests and needs must be considered.

THE BETHLEHEM BACH CHOIR by Raymond Walters. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. Price $2.50.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of America's noblest community chorus, the Bach Choir, which celebrated the event fittingly with its 1923 music festival at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The silver jubilee coincided with the sixtieth birthday of the Festival's conductor, Dr. J. Fred Wolle. It also occasioned the appearance of a silver anniversary edition of *The Bethlehem Bach Choir*, a history and critical compendium, by Raymond Walters, now the Dean of Swarthmore College but formerly registrar and assistant professor of English at Lehigh University at Bethlehem.

Mr. Walter stresses the fact that the Bach Festival is a noble form of community music by making one of his most important chapters that entitled "A Community Enterprise." It is this aspect of Mr. Walters' book that makes it of value to recreation organizations that are using community music as a civic force.

The most marked feature of the Bach Festival is its realization of a community music ideal. The Bach Choir stands for the community chorus in its best estate. First, it truly represents all groups in the community, for it includes in its ranks students and faculty members of Lehigh University, workmen from the mills of the Bethlehem Steel Company, Moravian Church members and other townspeople. Moreover, it contains a large proportion of young people. Second, the devotion of the chorus members shows that they find not only inspiration but recreation in singing together the noble, but highly exacting choral works of Bach which they rehearse once a week throughout the year. Third, the trombone choir, which from the tower of the Gothic church on the Lehigh campus plays Bach chorales to usher in each concert, has been for several generations

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a voice of the Moravian people. All in all, the festival gives utterance to a spiritual faith such as draws musical pilgrims each year to Bethlehem as an American Oberammergau.

The Bach Festival expresses the soul of this old Moravian community. However, without the inspiration of a leader such as Dr. J. Fred Wolle, that soul could not find expression. Similarly, each community has its individual musical soul, if we can but find it. Not every community has a soul that is to be expressed in the performance of Bach's music, since many of them lack the traditions which make this music a spontaneous expression of Bethlehem's spirit.

In order that such a message may be proclaimed, however, we must discover in each community the leader who will be the apostle of that message. Almost every community has in its midst a musician who possesses the potentialities for such leadership, if he can but be developed. Dr. Wolle, for instance, grew up in Bethlehem. His leadership, like the festival, has been a spontaneous outpouring of the city's spirit.

In other words, as Joseph Lee has reminded us, "The purpose of Community Service is to liberate the power of expression of people and communities,"—or "To help the men, women, and children of America to find their voices."

Some Practical Suggestions

In the chapter above mentioned Mr. Walters relates that requests have been received for specific suggestions based upon Bach Festival experience that would be helpful to those who in other parts of the country "are struggling with the problems of community music." His summing up of these suggestions is to this effect:

(1) Whatever the form of a community musical endeavor, there should be obtained somehow an assured financial basis. For the stimulation of private giving the author cites a rule formulated by Henry L. Higginson, the lamented patron of the Boston Symphony: "Never mind the balance-sheet! Charge the deficit, if there be any, to profit and forget the loss, for it does not really exist."

(2) The conductor must be a musician of vision, presence and infectious enthusiasm.

(3) Singers with trained voices are not necessary to make a good chorus. In another chapter Mr. Walters quotes William James to show how Dr. Wolle draws artistic results from a group of singers who are not artists individually. Said James: "Deficiences of any one faculty can be compensated by the efforts of the rest. You can be an artist without visual images, a mass of erudition with a bad elementary memory. In almost any subject your passion for the subject will save you. If you only care enough for a result, you will almost certainly attain it."

(4) There is danger in over-organizing a chorus, in having by-laws, dues, fines and a multiplicity of committees. As a substitute, Mr. Walters suggests a devoted membership secretary. "Ah, but where to find one," one asks.

(5) Limitation to one composer is not, in general, a policy to be advised. In most cases the author would have variety in program sources.

Neighborhood Parties

(Continued from page 390)

Oh! What fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh

3. Run forward again to first part—

4. Turn backs to partners and skip forward away from them through the third line. Turn and skip back and jump on last word of

fourth line. Repeat—all go home jingling bells. Assemble in home groups—several families together and have some coffee and sandwiches in one of the homes.

VII. *Neighboring Sleigh Ride*

End at a large home and have a marshmallow roast, charades and songs.

VIII. *An Evening of Fun*

Marching Games
Guessing Games
Alphabet Games

(Send for C. S. I. Bulletin 265—rules for all the games needed for an evening.)

IX. *Neighborhood Contests and Inter Neighborhood Tournaments*

Quoits
Volley Ball
Basket Ball
Skipmobile
Tennis
Handball
Pushmobile

X. *Neighborhood Field Day*

A Play Festival

1. *America* sung by everyone
2. Children 5 to 8 dramatize nursery rhymes as:
   Little Miss Muffet
   Dickory Dickory Dock
   Little Boy Blue
   Let the children work them out just as they want to.
3. Boys and Girls 9-12
   Last Couple Out
   Handkerchief Snatch
   Run for Your Supper
4. Song—by everyone
5. Older girls—Folk Dances—used in school
6. Older Boys
   Fox and Hound
   Hurdle Relay
7. One act play by a Neighborhood Group
8. Young Men
   Dodge Ball
   Center Ball
9. Mothers and Fathers
   Walking Relay by twos
10. Song—by everyone
11. Children—Singing Games
12. Boys and Girls 9-12 Dramatize a story as:
    The Shoemaker and the Elves
    Pied Piper of Hamlin
13. Older Girls and Boys

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As they finish all follow them and fall in marching line. The flag group leads them in a serpentine march across the field and back several times until all are in the field. They can station 8 boys on either side of the field 6 feet apart and lead the line around them. When all are in the field (old and young) all halt, face the front and give pledge to the flag—then sing 14. *Star Spangled Banner.*

HALLOWE'EN SUGGESTIONS, a bulletin containing suggestions for (a) a Community Wide Hallowe'en Celebration in pageant form, (b) a Hallowe'en Party, with ideas for invitations, decorations, refreshments, costumes, and directions for playing a great variety of games. Published by the Playground and Recreation Association of America, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City, price 15¢

HALLOWE'EN HAPPENINGS, by Lettie C. Van Derveer, a book offering all sorts of ideas for Hallowe'en celebrations. Splendid suggestions for invitations and decorations are given together with ever so many games and a number of ghost stories and recitations. The latter might be used in working out a short program as a feature of the party. Published by Walter H. Baker Company, Boston, price 40¢

BOGIE BOOK, a jolly little book containing many colored illustrations, especially valuable to those planning a costume party. Detailed descriptions are given with each illustration as to the cutting and making of the costumes. The book also contains illustrated ideas for decorating both the room and the table. Published by Dennison Manufacturing Company, 220 Fifth Avenue, New York City, price 10¢

Hallowe'en Plays

FIRE SPIRITS (contained in "Red Letter Day Plays") by Margaret Getchell Parsons, a splendid Hallowe'en play.

The Story. Two little Puritan maidens, living in a Massachusetts farm house in the early Colonial days are left alone the eve before Hallowe'en. Their parents have given them permission to make two jack-o-lanterns from the pile of winter pumpkins. Little do they think as they joyously cut the eyes and nose, that these same jack-o-lanterns will terrify and put to flight two Indians from a hostile tribe who have crept into the house intent upon serious mischief. This book also contains excellent plays for other holidays, including Christmas, Valentine Day, May Day, etc. Published by the Womans Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York City, price $1.35

THE LOST FIREWOOD, by Emilie Blackmore Stapp and Eleanor Cameron, a delightful one-act play in verse. Seven good speaking parts and about twenty-five extras.

The Story. Four mischievous boys go to the forest to conjure up new Hallowe'en pranks; a despicable witch offers suggestions for a very cruel type of mischief directed against a poor old Irish laundress. In the midst of her schemes she comes face to face with Jelf, the love elf, and she flees in terror. Jelf is filled with delight over the results of his magic which is really the power of love. Published by Walter H. Baker Company, Price 30¢

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